

EPICS &  
MYTHOLOGY

## NAHUSHA

Even though Nahusha, the son of King Ayus and Queen Indumati, was spirited away at birth to be killed by the demon, Hunda, he lived on to achieve immortality. Married to Ashokasundari, the beautiful daughter of Shiva and Parvati, he was elected to be the king of heaven. And then his mortal mind succumbed to the sin of pride. The stories of Nahusha are taken from the Padma Purana and the Mahabharata.

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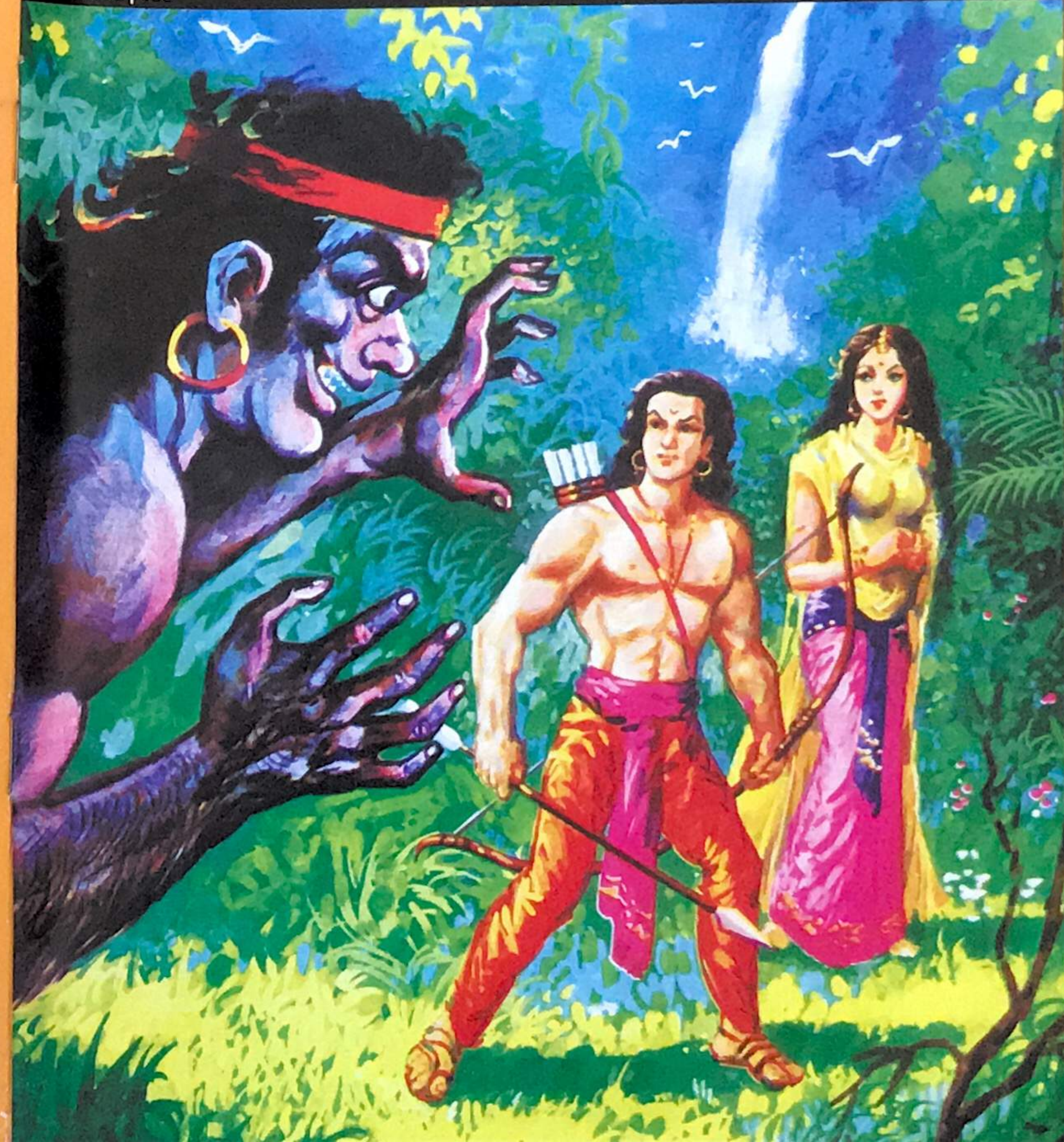
- NARAYAN MURTHY, CHIEF MENTOR, INFOSYS



# NAHUSHA

HE BECAME THE KING OF HEAVEN

Vol 695 | ₹50

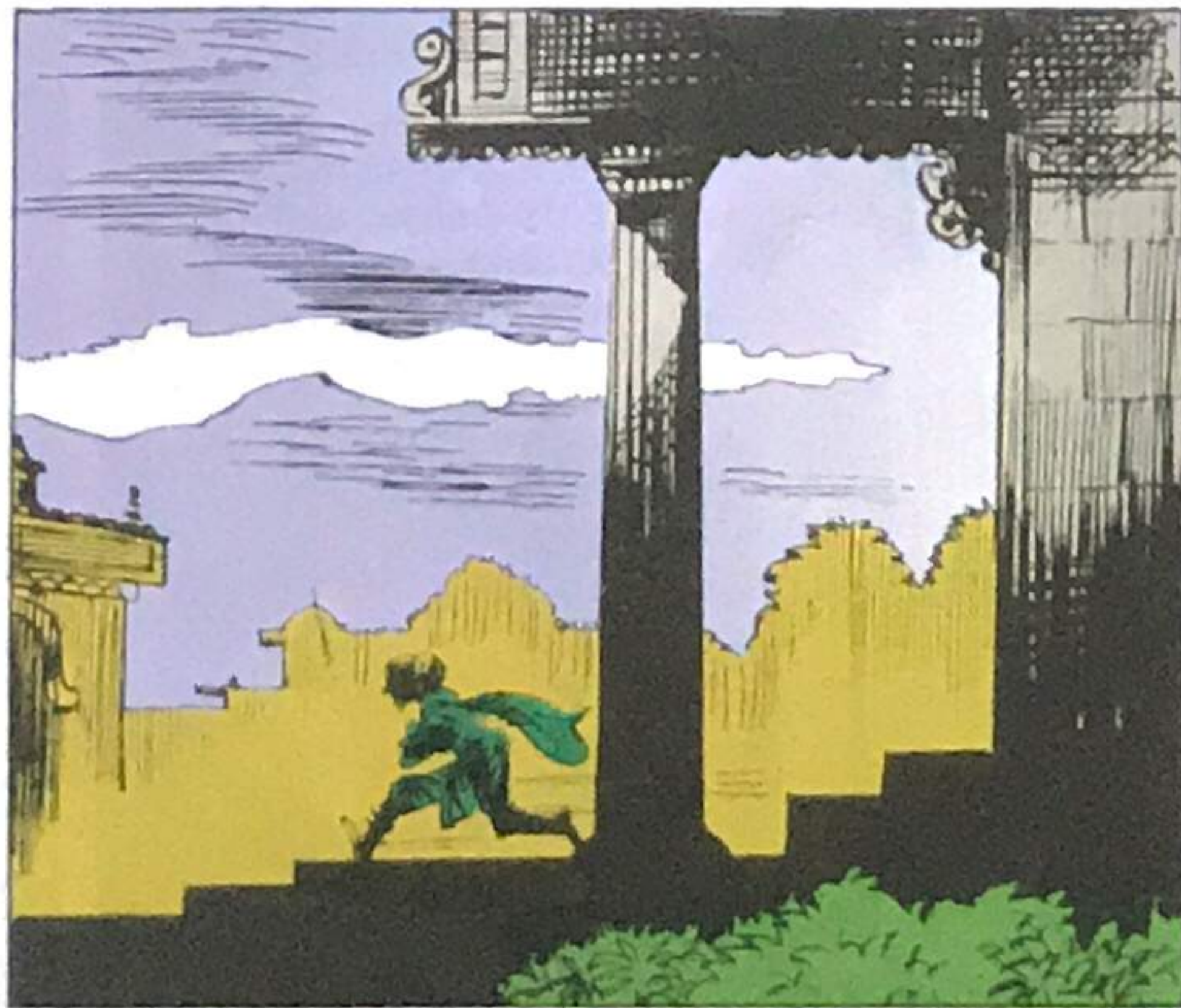
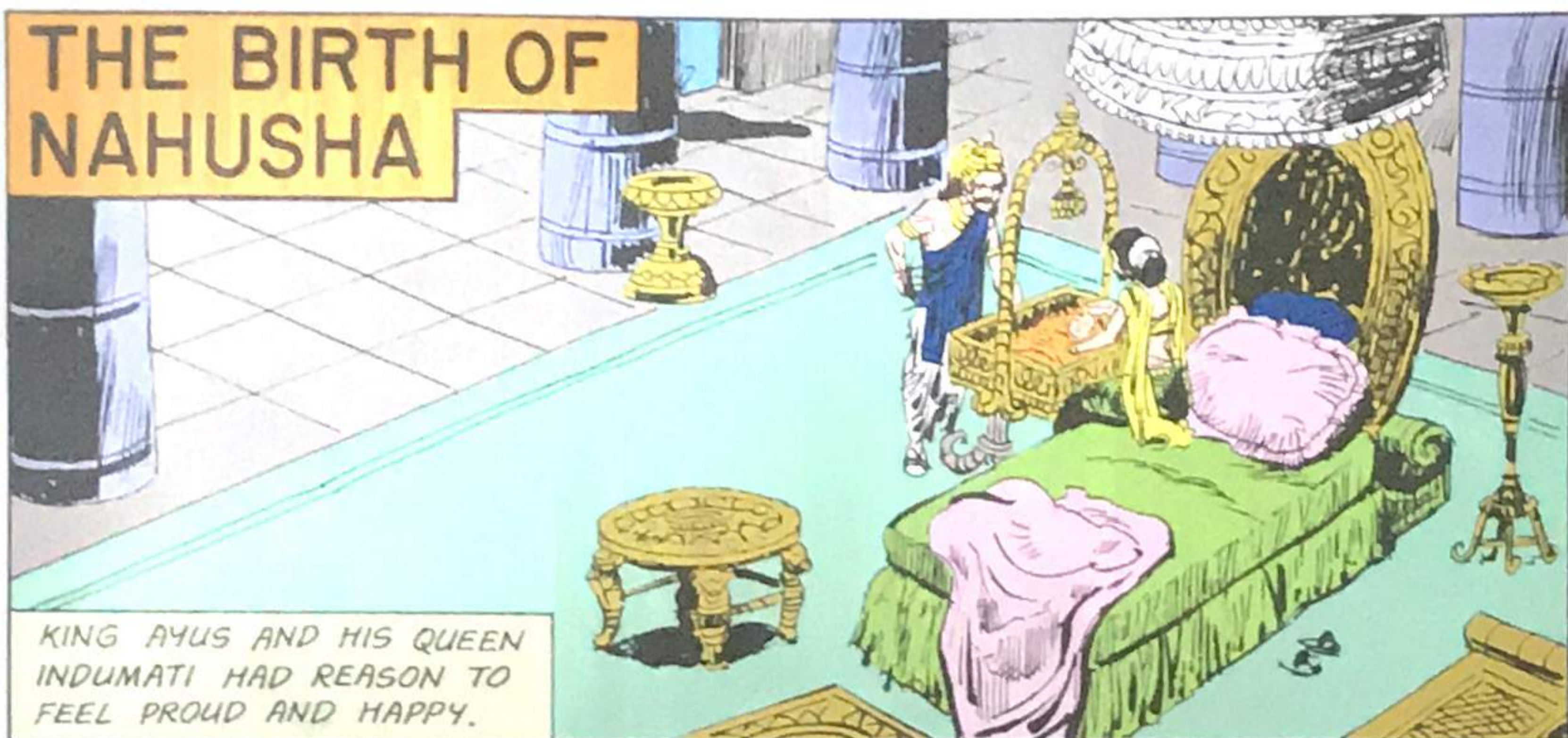


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# THE BIRTH OF NAHUSHA





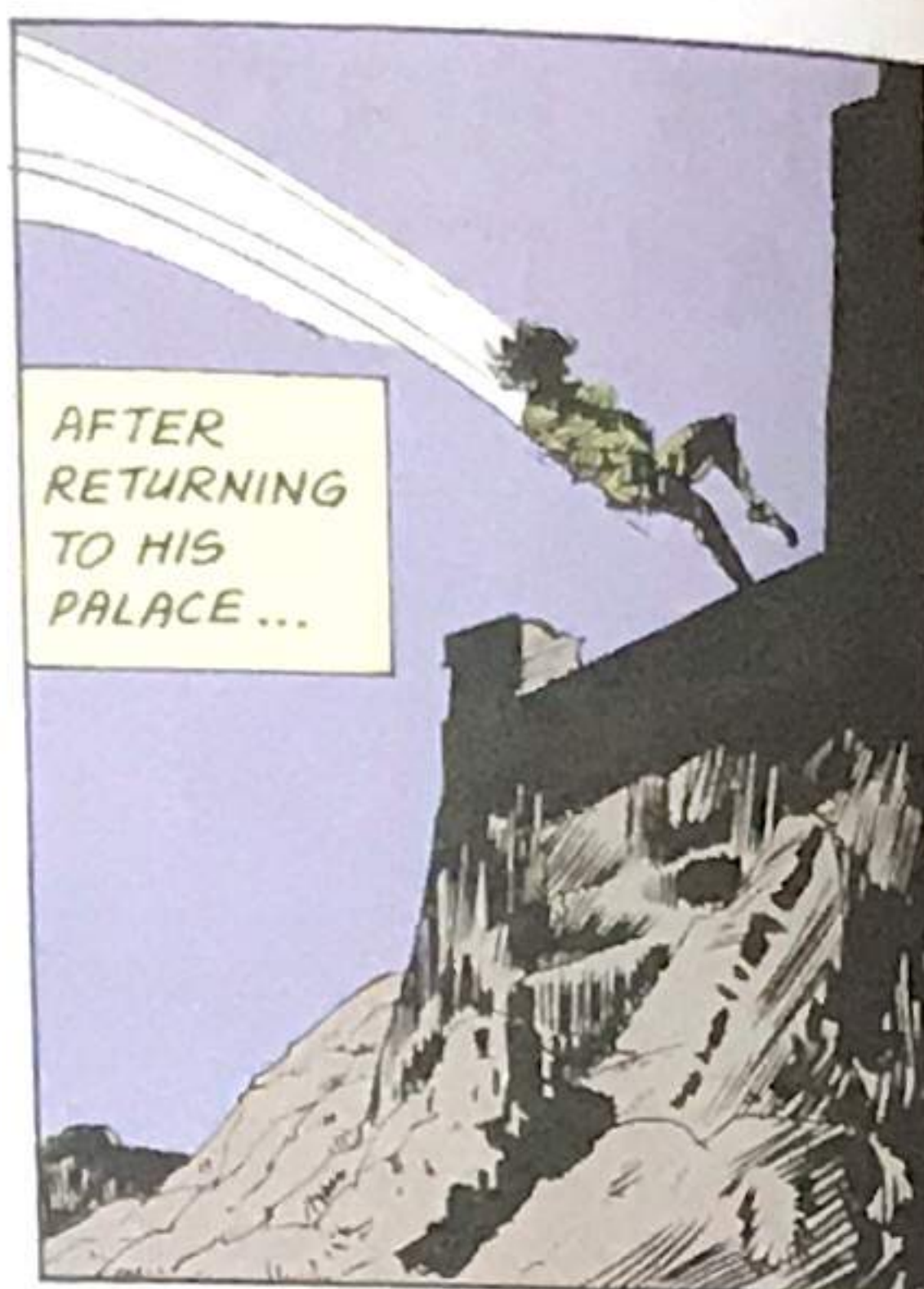
THE NEXT MOMENT—



THE MAID WAS NONE OTHER THAN THE ASURA HUNDA.



AFTER RETURNING TO HIS PALACE...



...HE HANDED OVER THE CHILD TO HIS WIFE.



WHEN THE DISH WAS READY—



MEANWHILE IN A CORNER OF THE KITCHEN.



SOON—



DAWN HAD JUST FLUSHED THE SKY. THE VENERABLE SAGE VASISHTHA WAS SETTING OUT FOR THE RIVER WHEN—



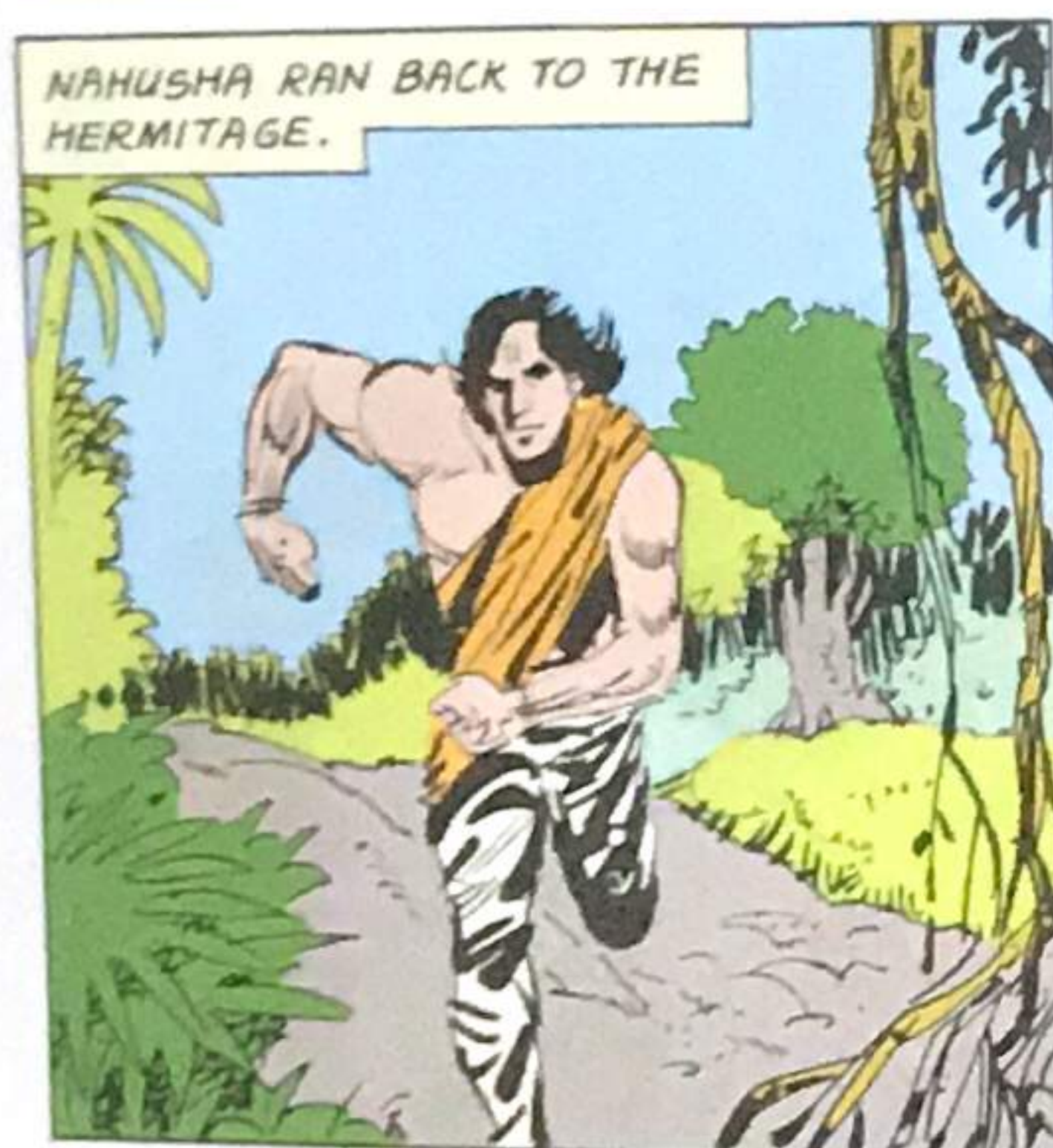
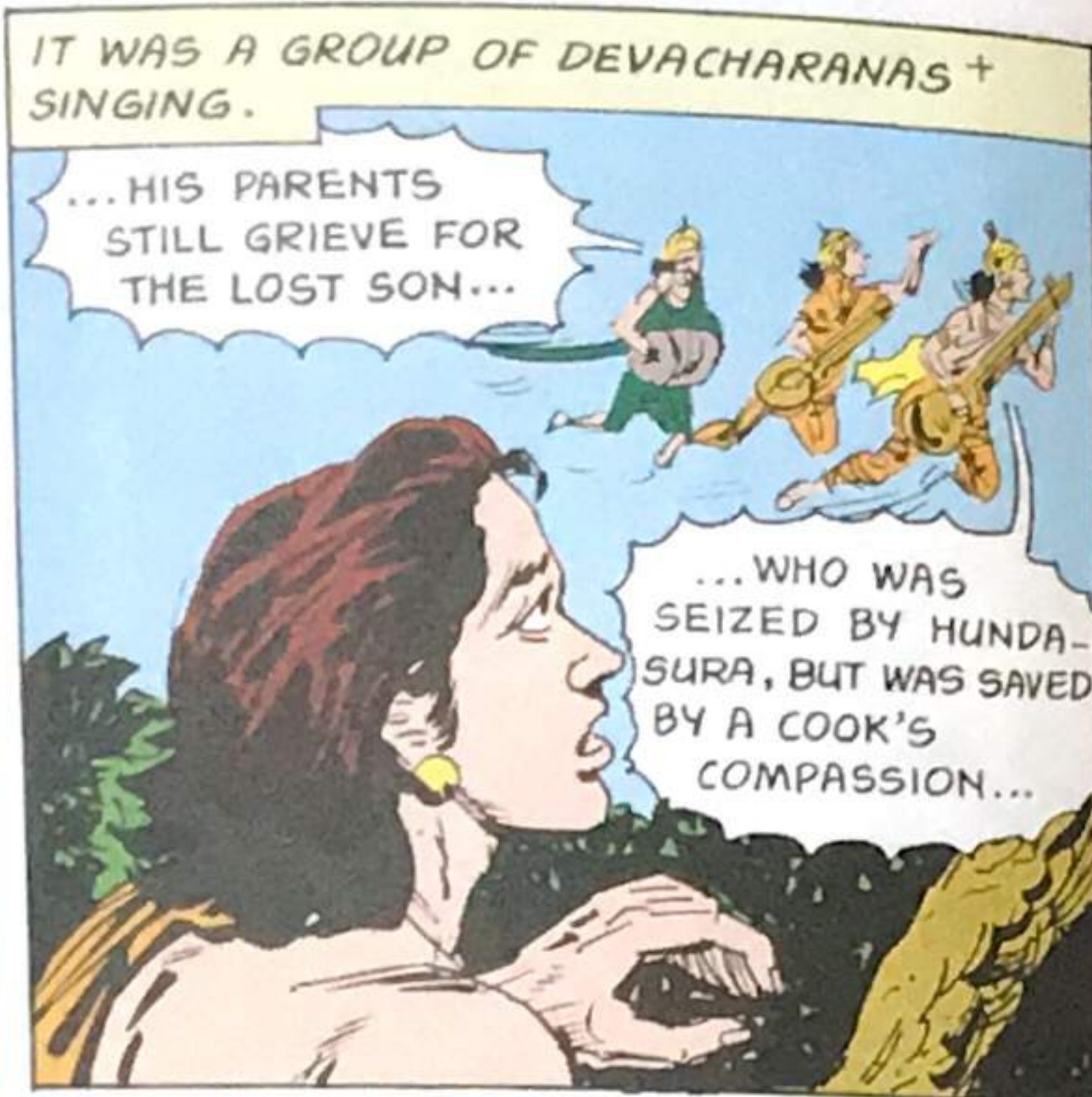
HE PICKED UP THE CHILD AND BY HIS SPIRITUAL POWER DIVINED ITS STORY.



MEANWHILE—

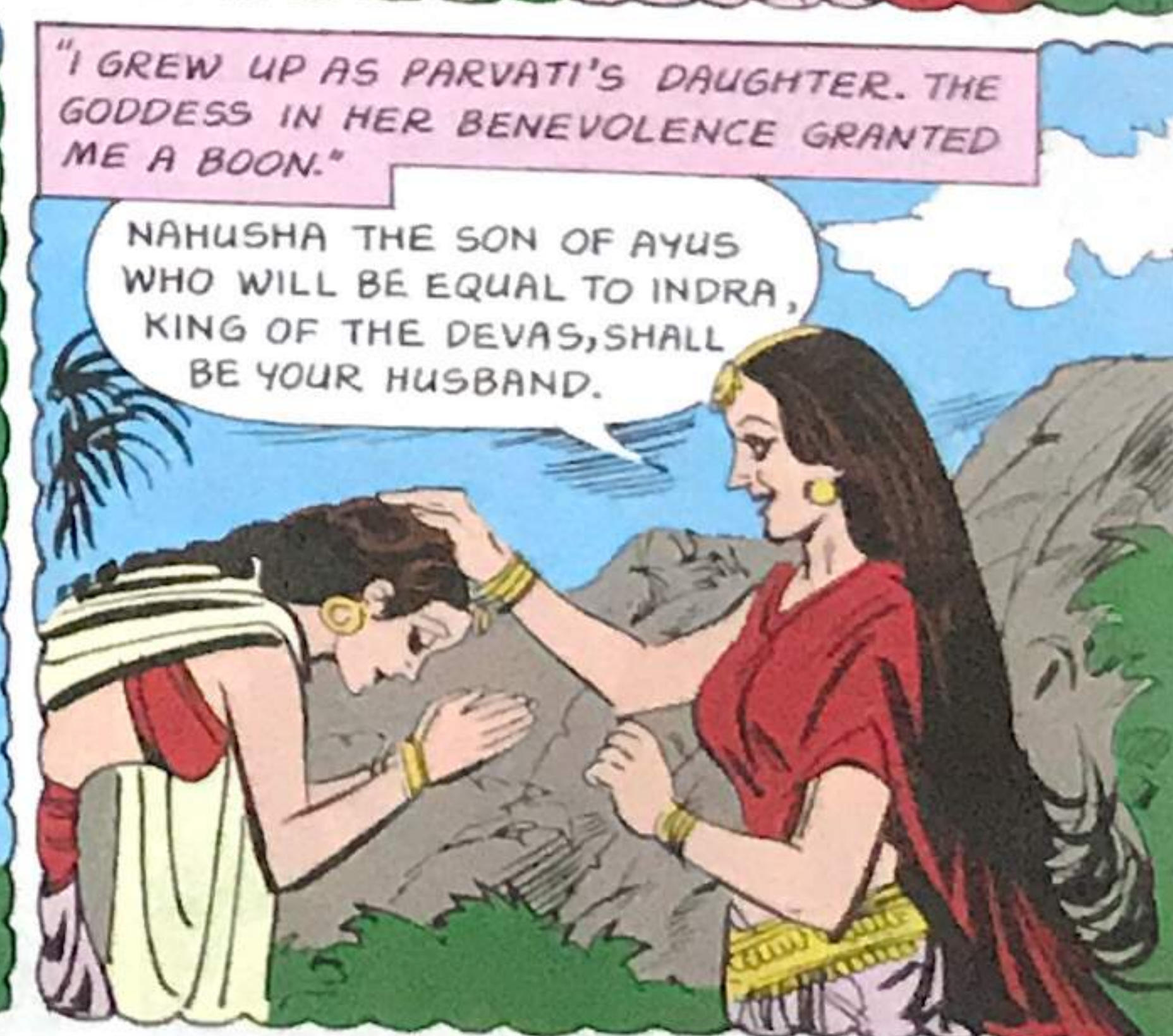
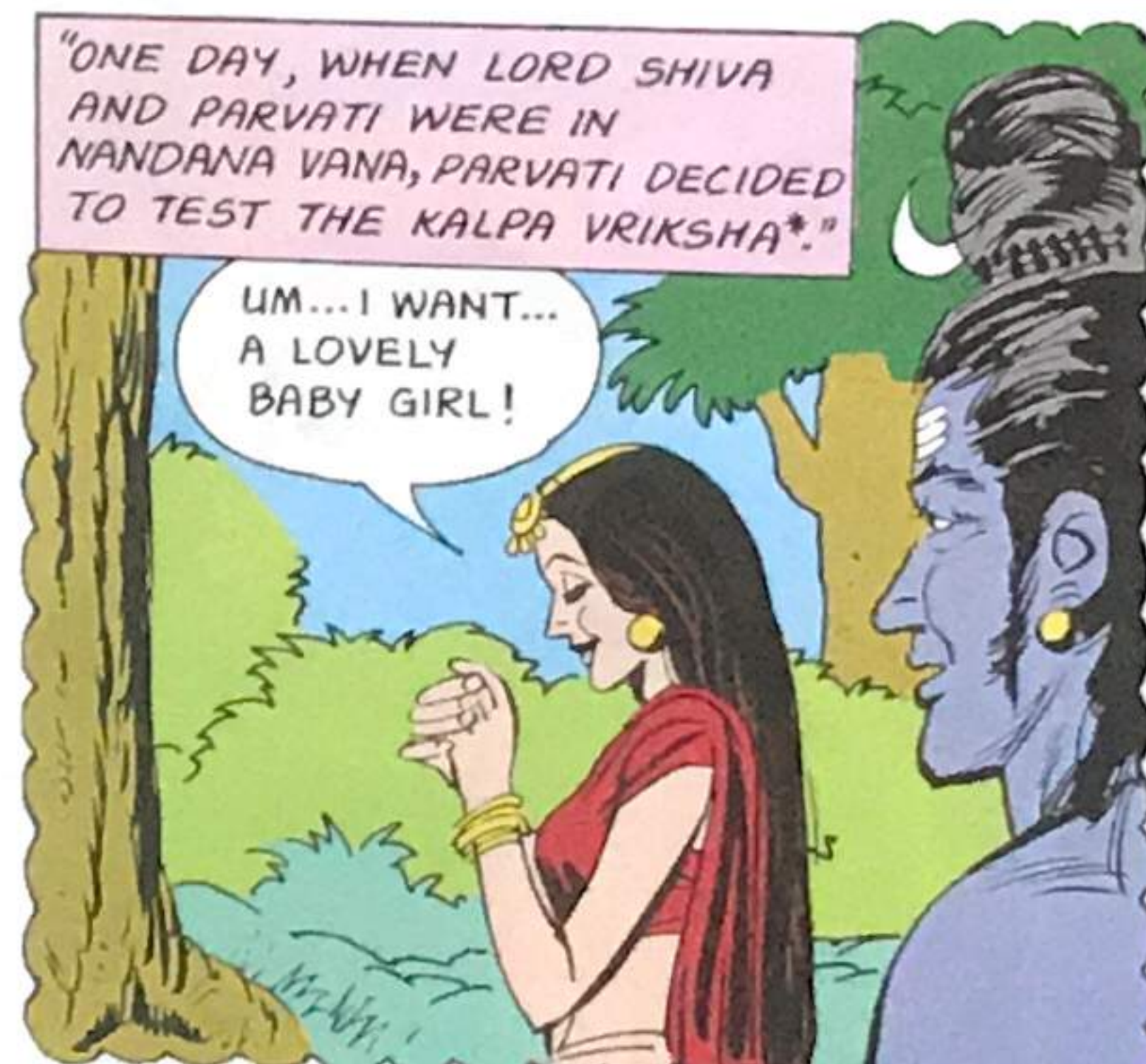
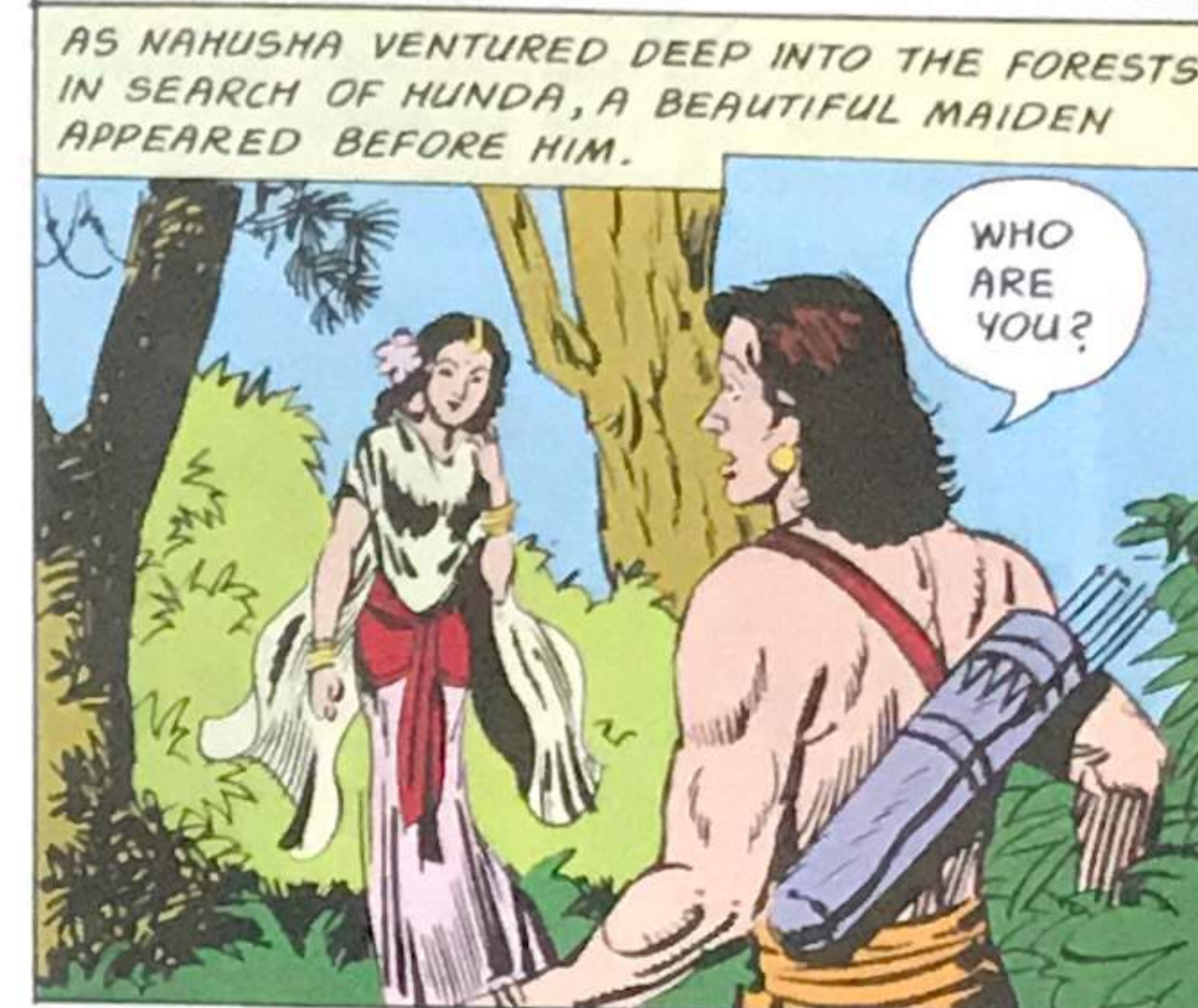






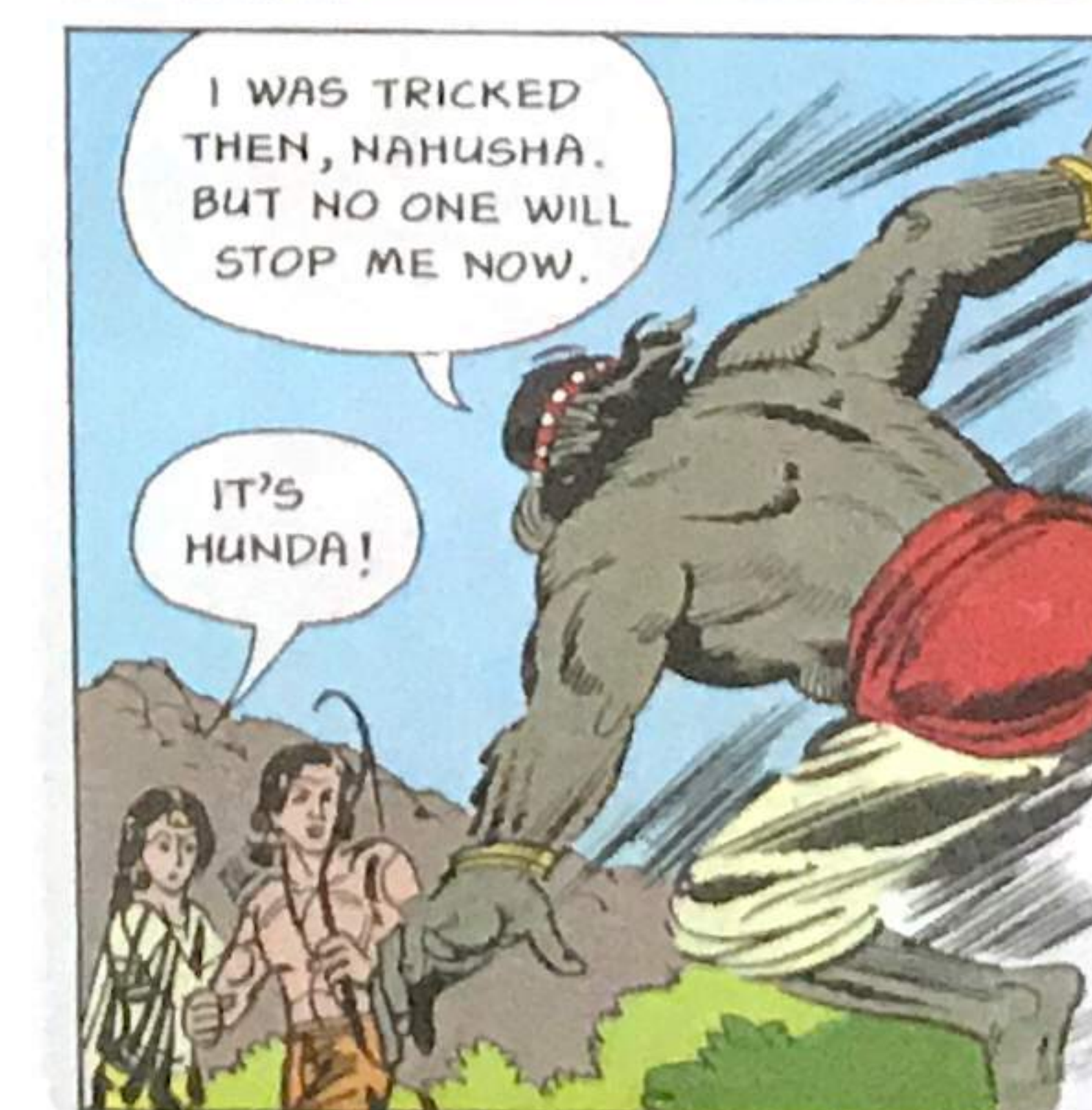
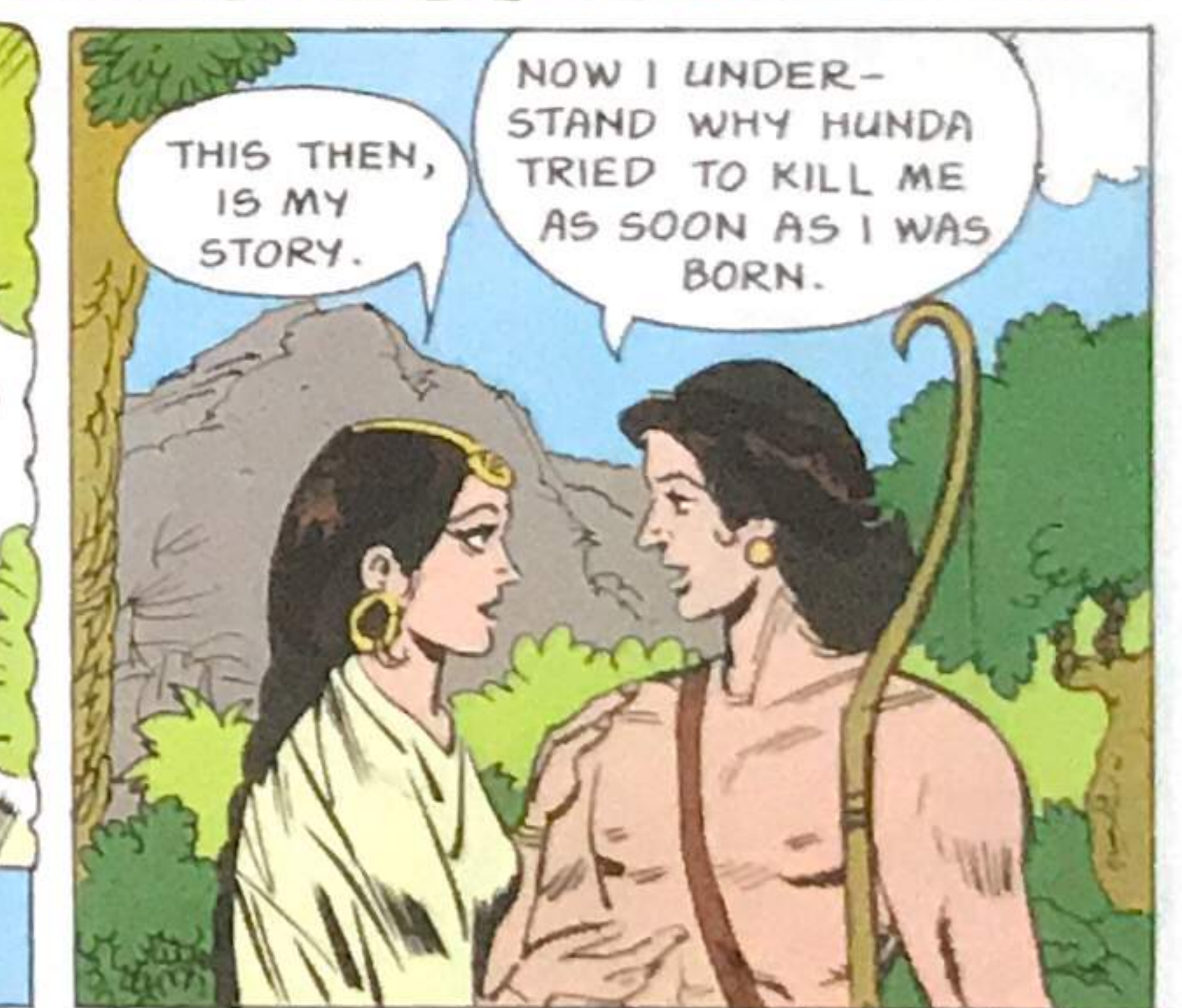
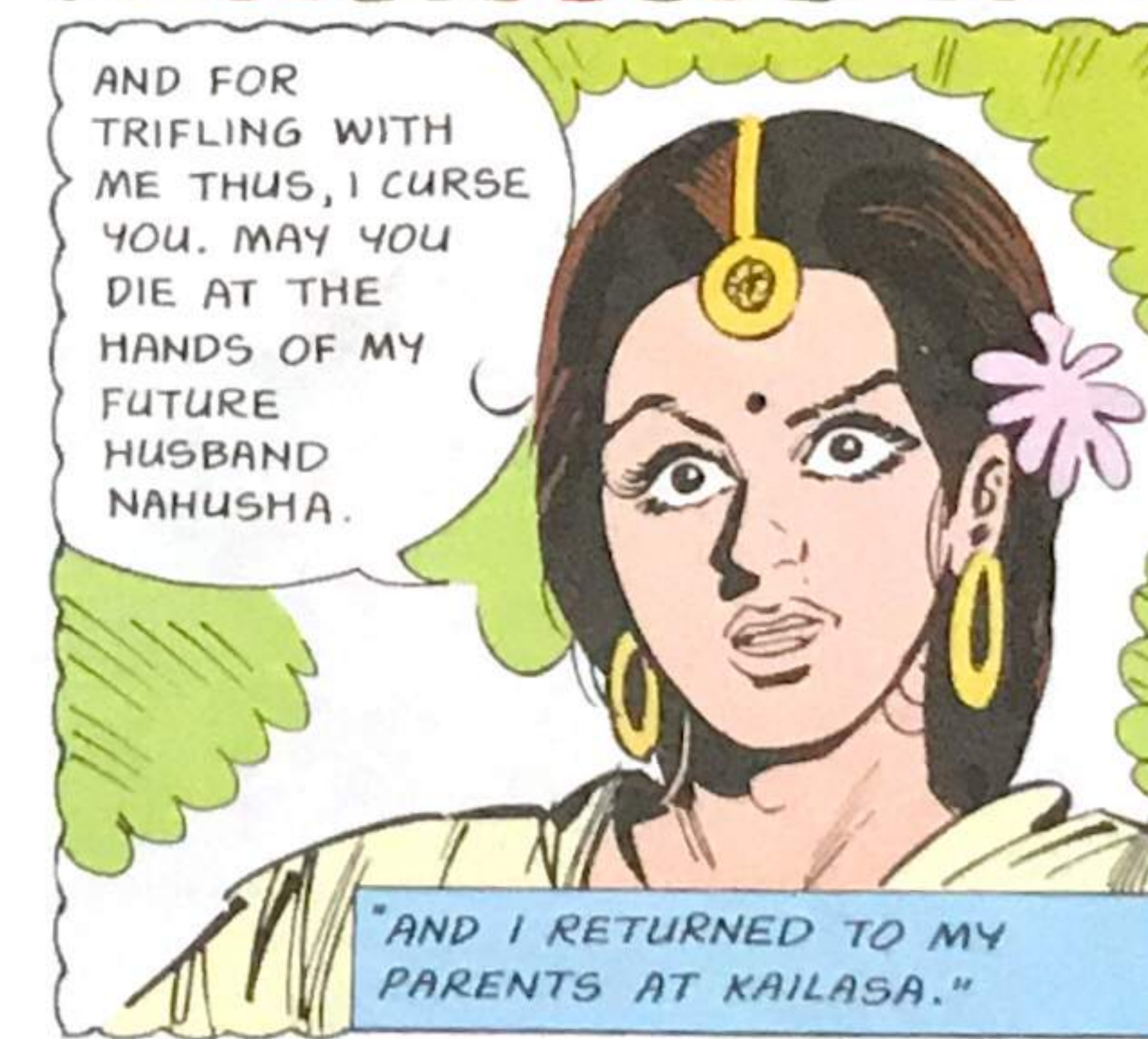
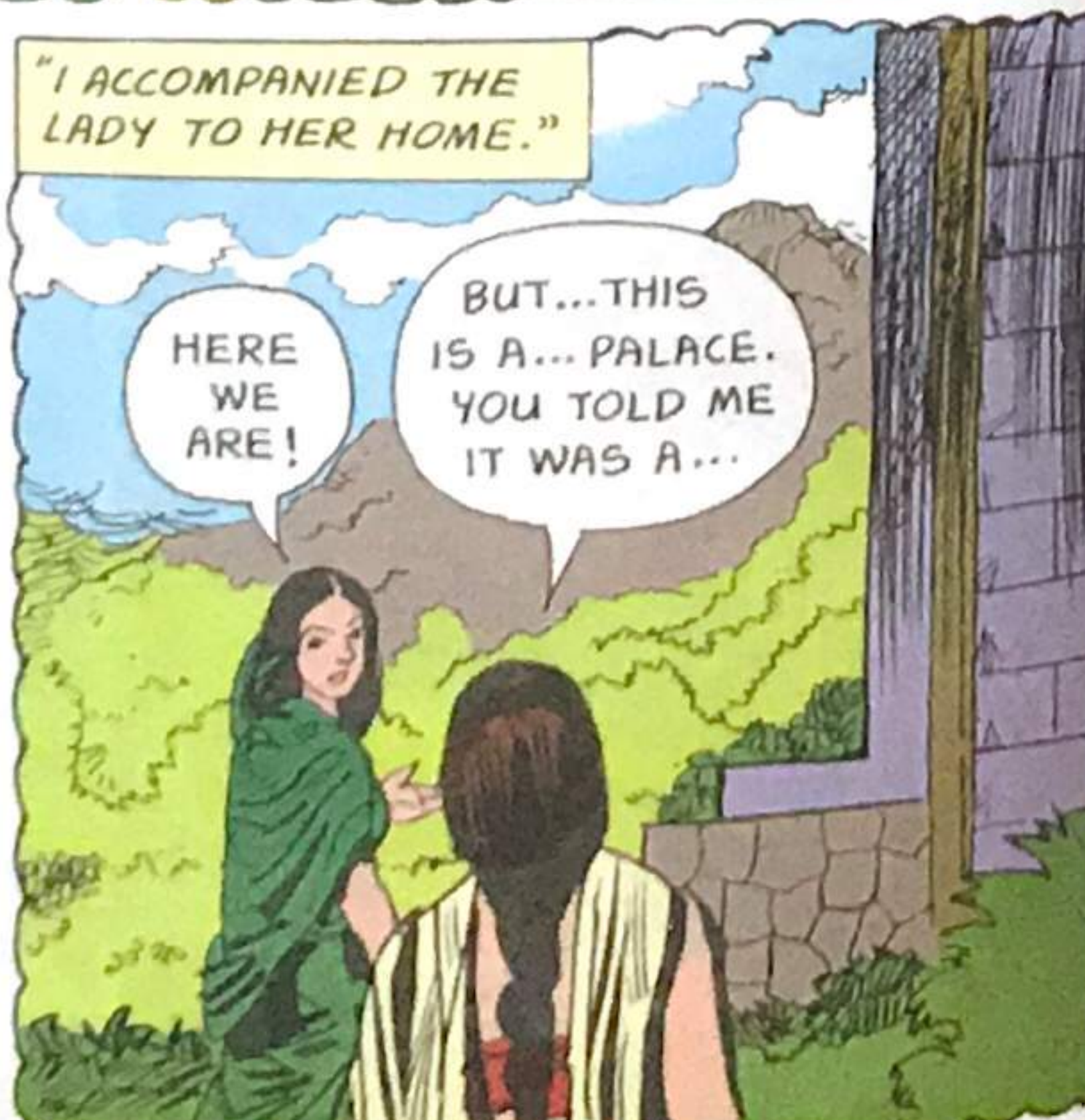
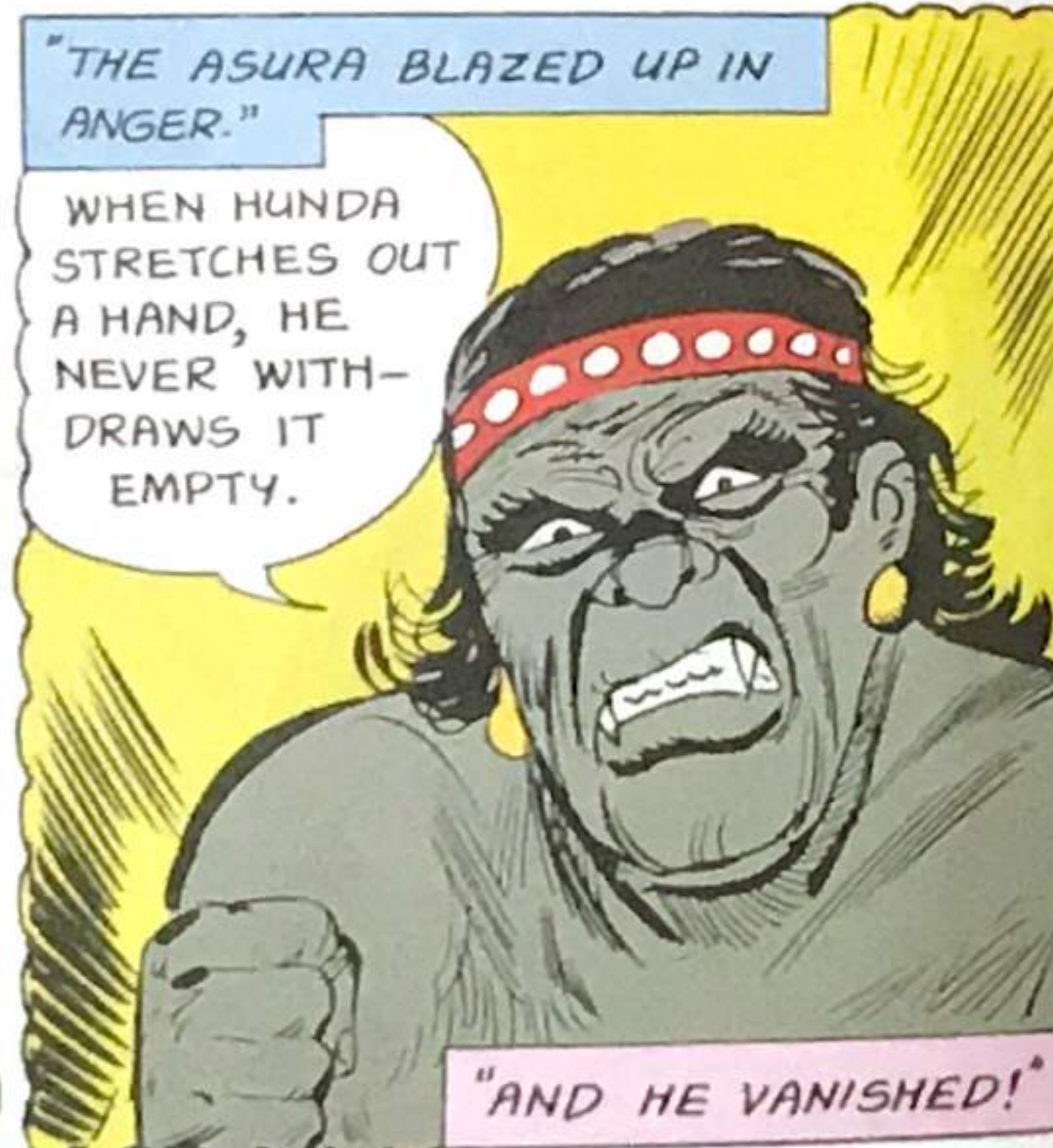
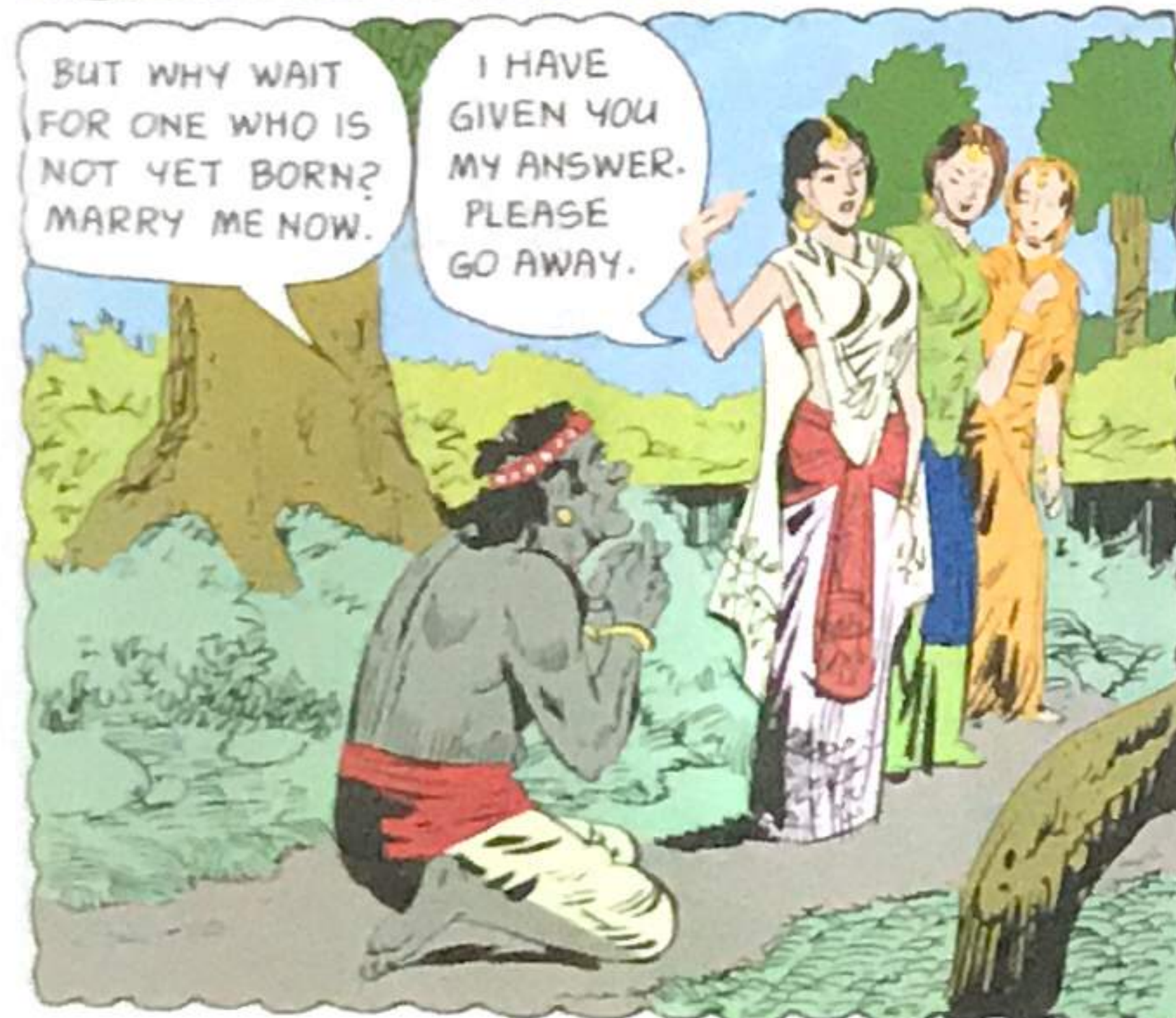
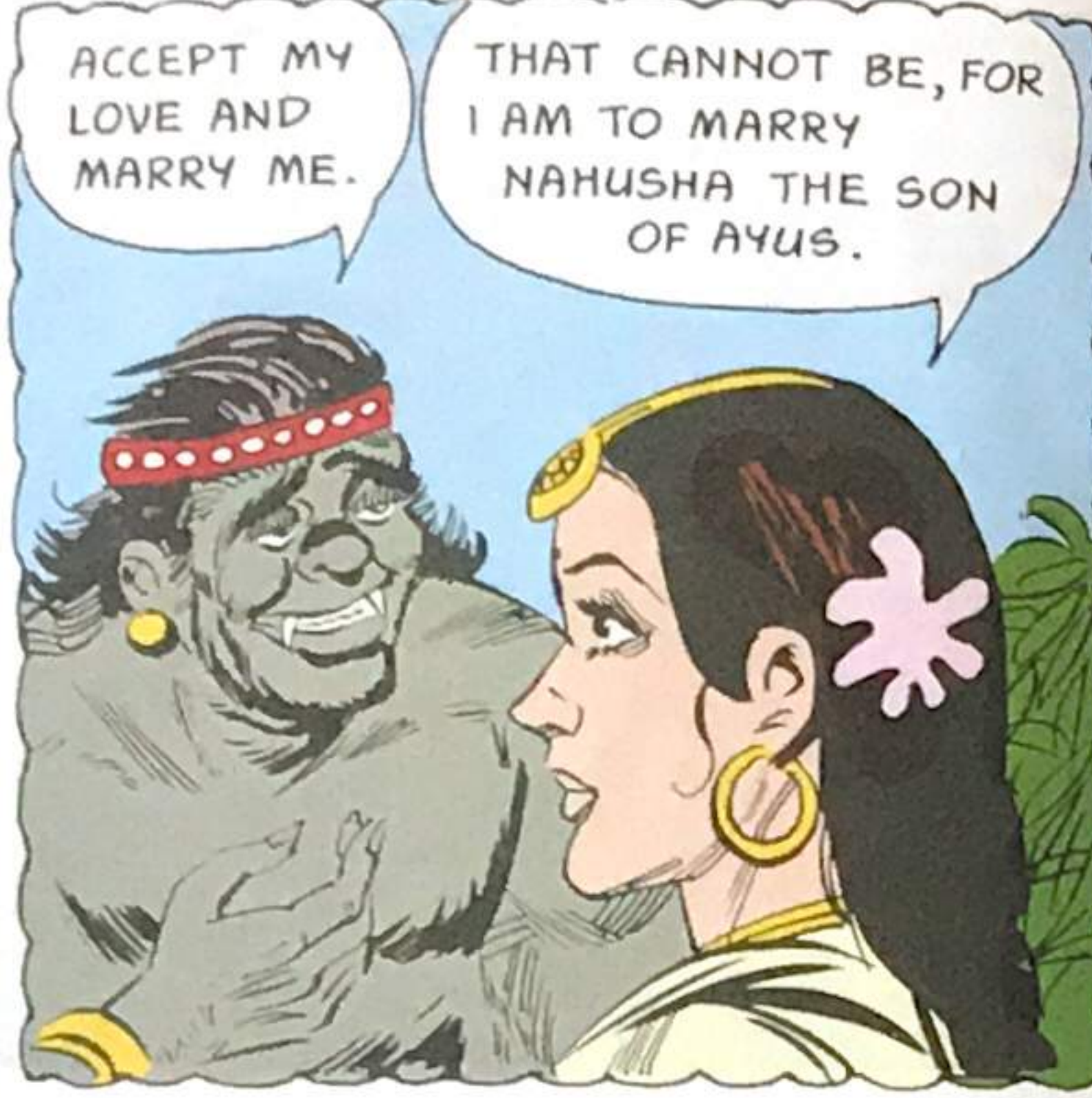
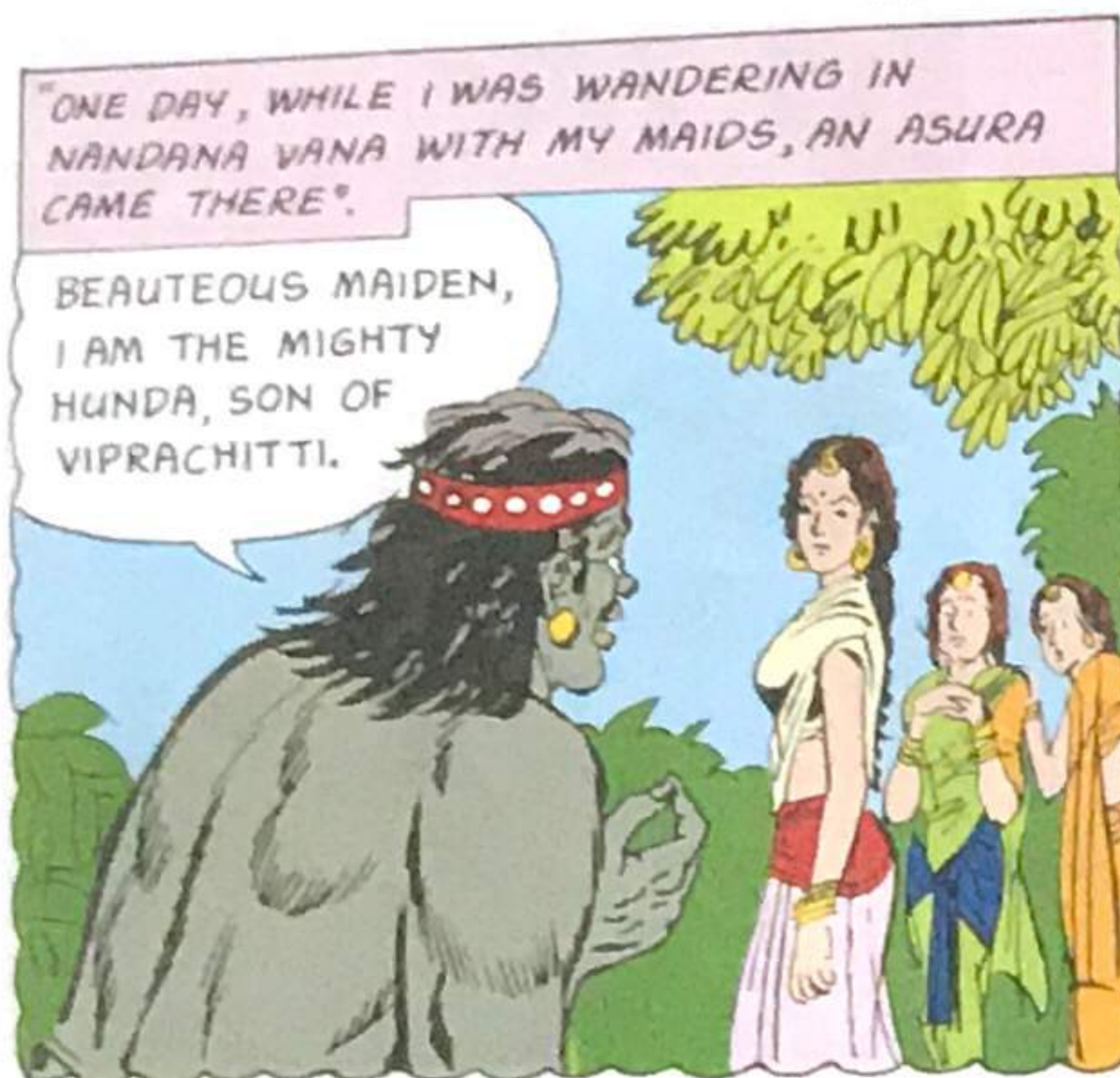
\* TWIGS OFFERED IN VARIOUS RITES TO AGNI

† CELESTIAL MUSICIANS



\* WISH FULFILLING TREE







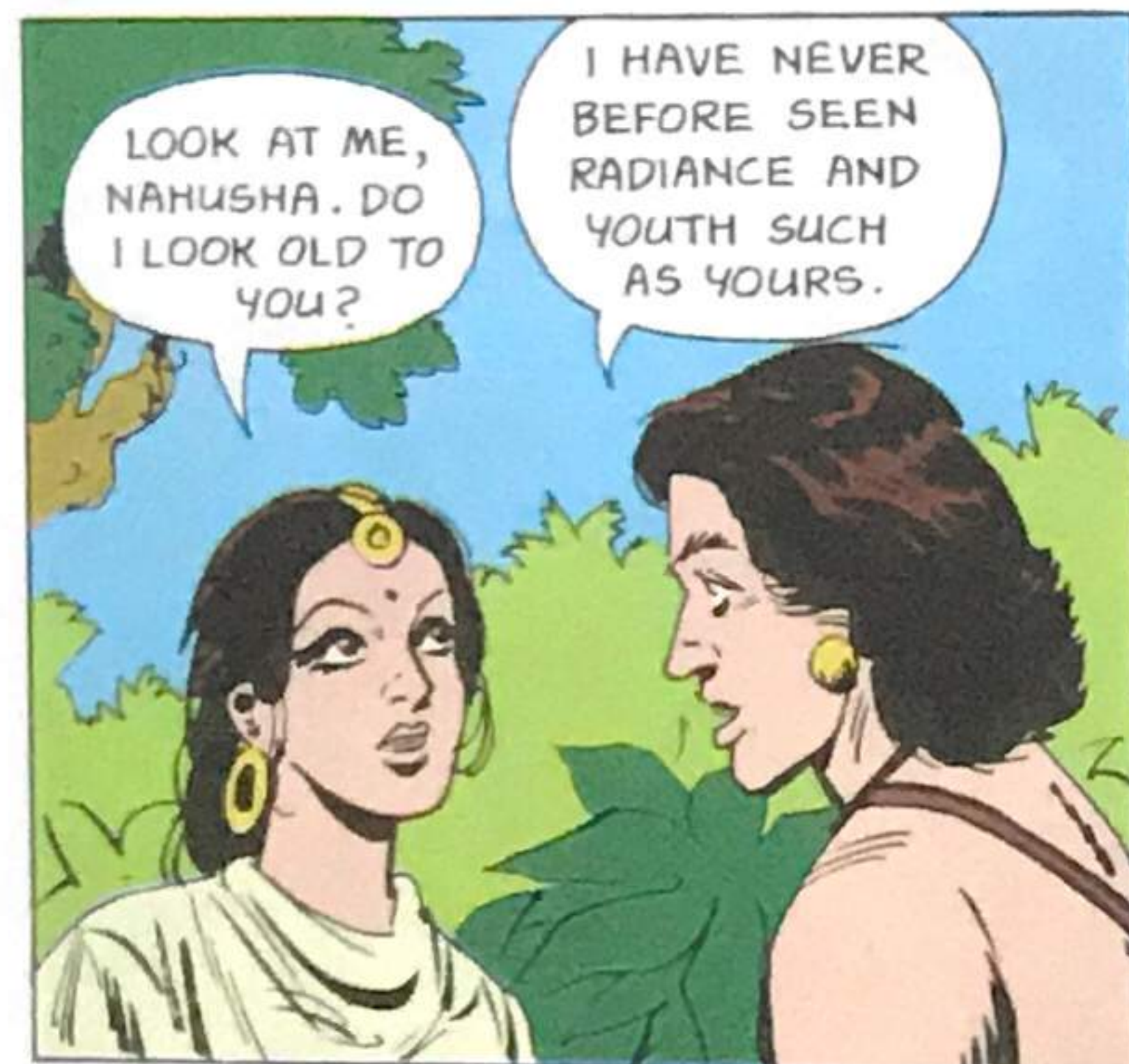


GOOD LADY,  
HE WILL  
TROUBLE YOU  
NO MORE.



YOU HAVE KILLED  
HUNDA AS WILLED BY  
DESTINY. NOW...  
WILL YOU MARRY  
ME, AS DESTINY  
HAS WILLED?

I WOULD HAVE  
READILY MARRIED  
YOU. BUT I AM TOO...  
YOU ARE OLDER  
...MUCH OLDER.



LOOK AT ME,  
NAHUSHA. DO  
I LOOK OLD TO  
YOU?

I HAVE NEVER  
BEFORE SEEN  
RADIANCE AND  
YOUTH SUCH  
AS YOURS.



AND I WILL ALWAYS  
REMAIN SO. I DO NOT  
AGE AS HUMANS DO.  
YET, IT IS TO A  
HUMAN THAT I HAVE  
LOST MY HEART.

ASHOKASUNDARI!!

FILLED WITH HAPPINESS,  
NAHUSHA MARRIED  
ASHOKASUNDARI.

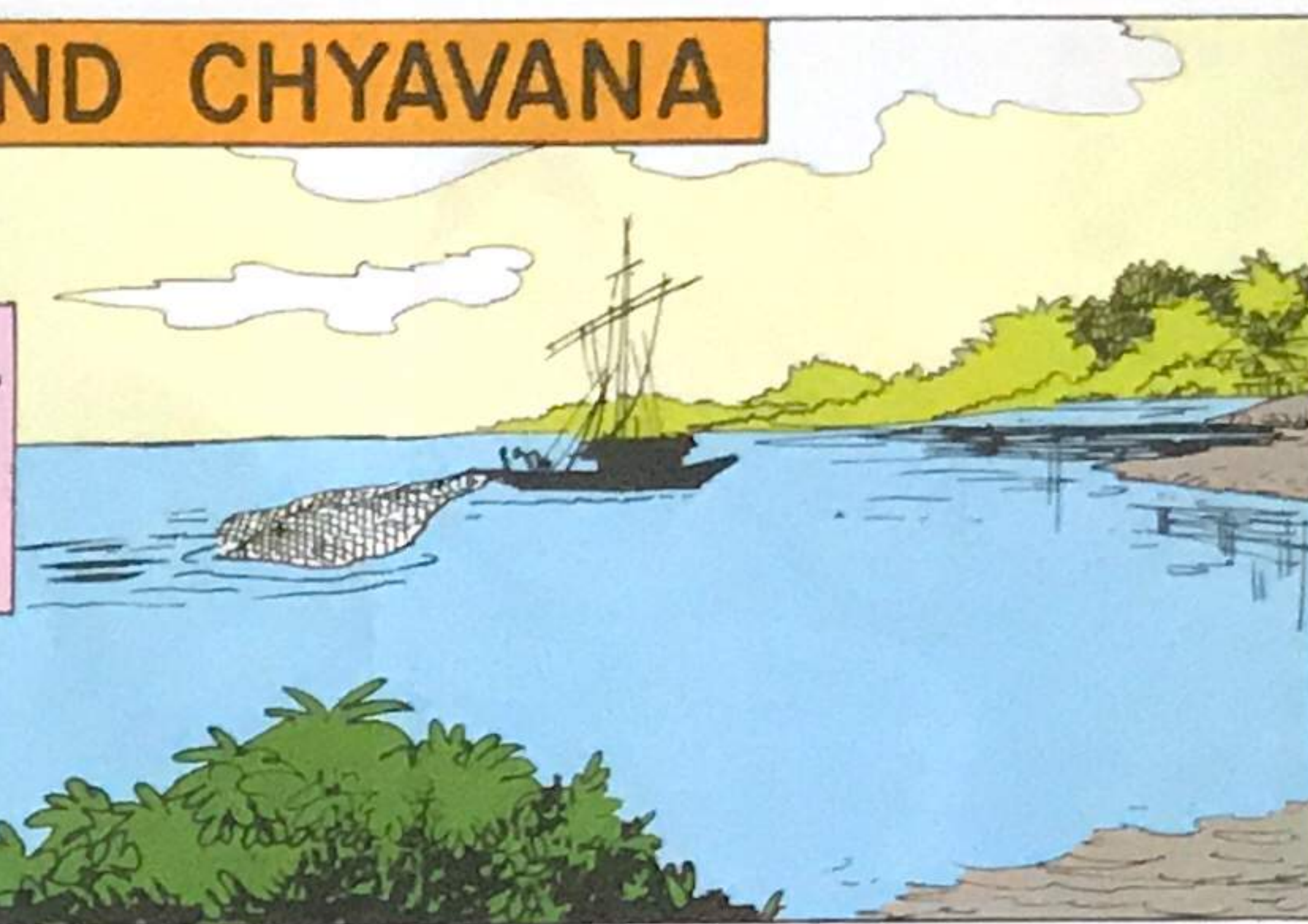


THEY THEN WENT TO HIS  
FATHER'S KINGDOM, WHERE  
SON AND PARENTS WERE  
UNITED ONCE MORE.

IN COURSE OF TIME,  
AHUS DIED AND  
NAHUSHA SUCCEEDED  
HIM.

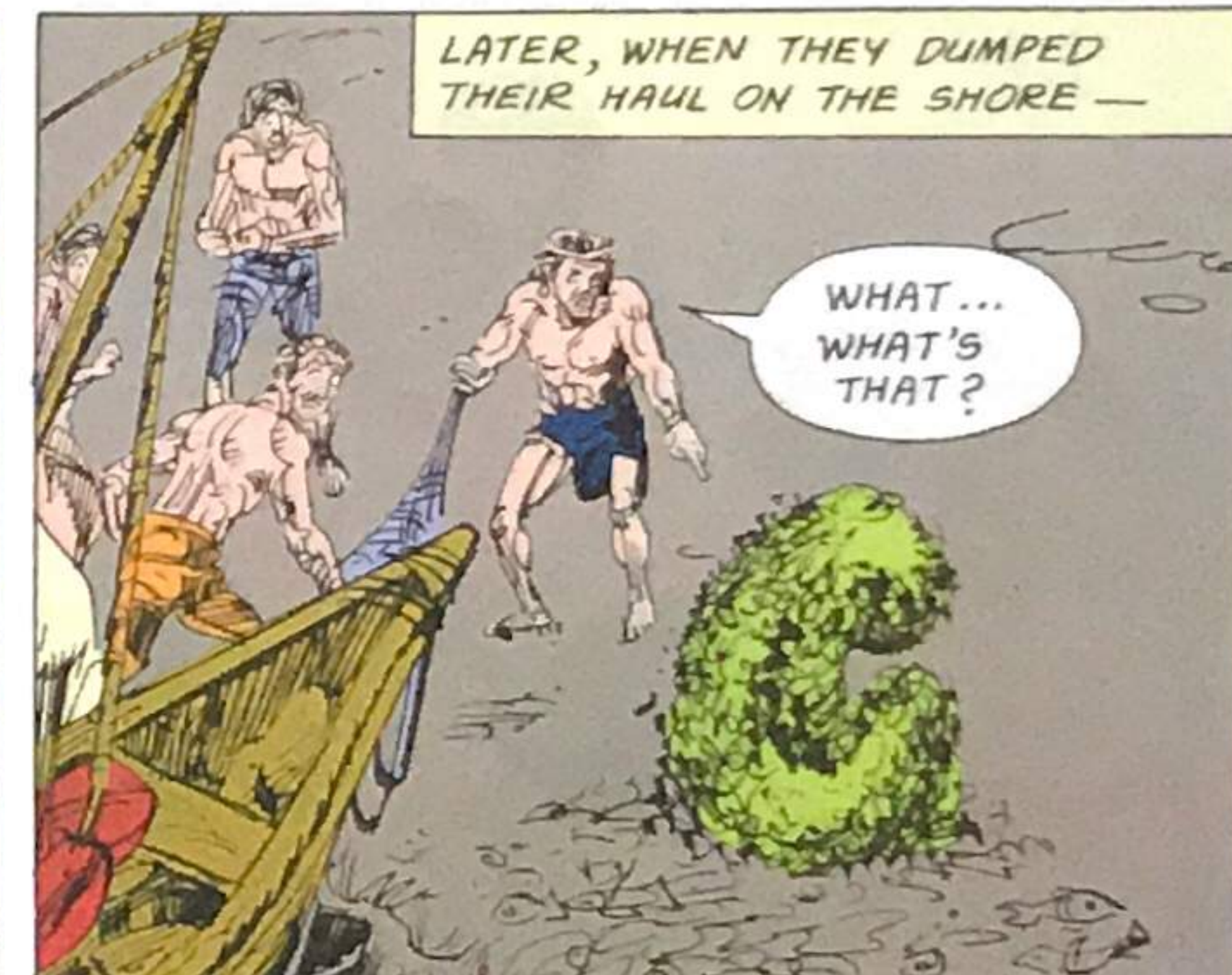
# NAHUSHA AND CHYAVANA

ONE DAY, IN THE KINGDOM  
OF NAHUSHA, THE BRAVE AND  
BROAD-CHESTED KAIVARTAS  
OF PRAYAG, CAST THEIR  
NETS FOR THEIR DAILY  
CATCH OF FISH.



ALL RIGHT.  
NOW—  
PULL!

UNH!  
UNH!



LATER, WHEN THEY DUMPED  
THEIR HAUL ON THE SHORE—

WHAT...  
WHAT'S  
THAT?

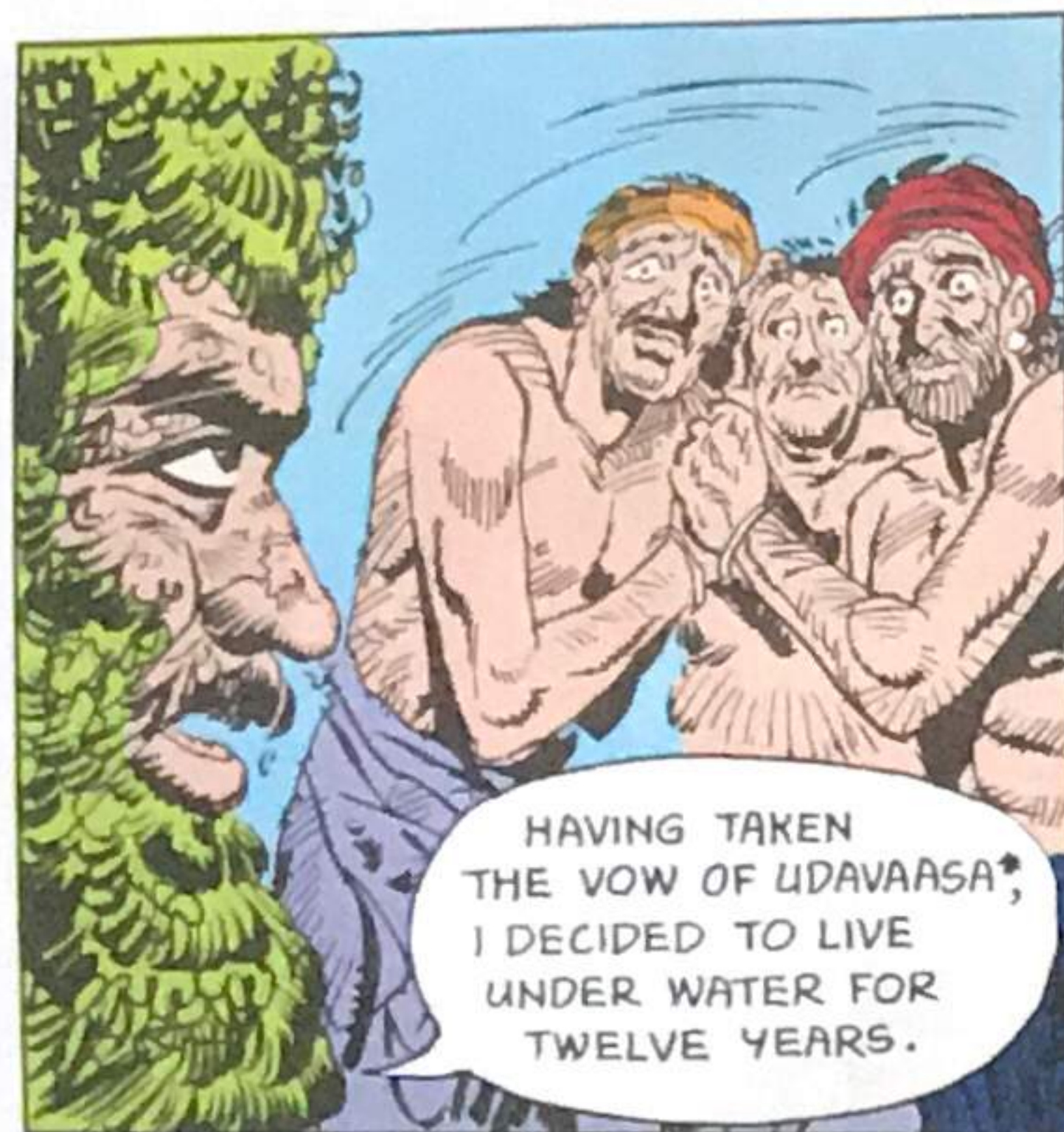


E-E-AAH...!

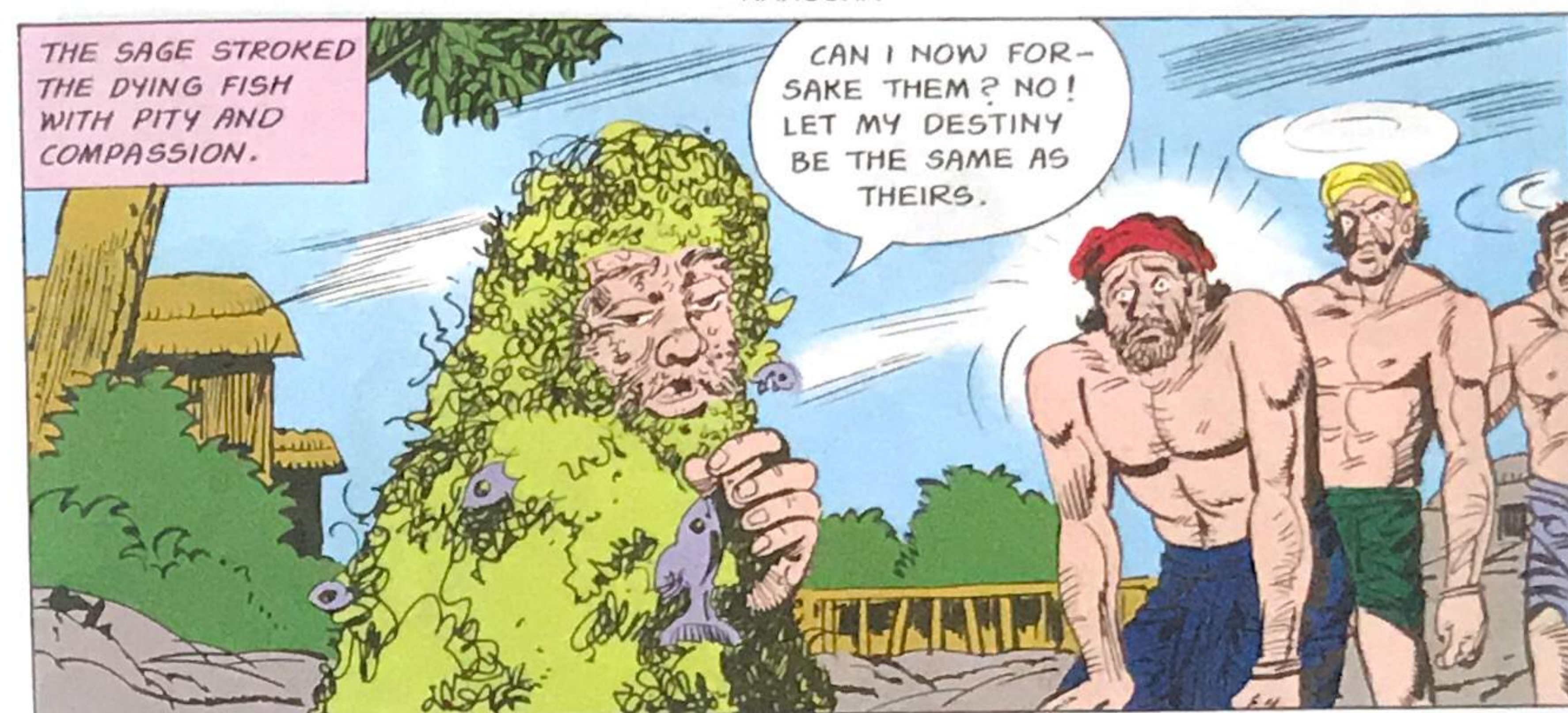


GOOD MEN, DO  
NOT BE AFRAID.  
I AM SAGE  
CHYAVANA.





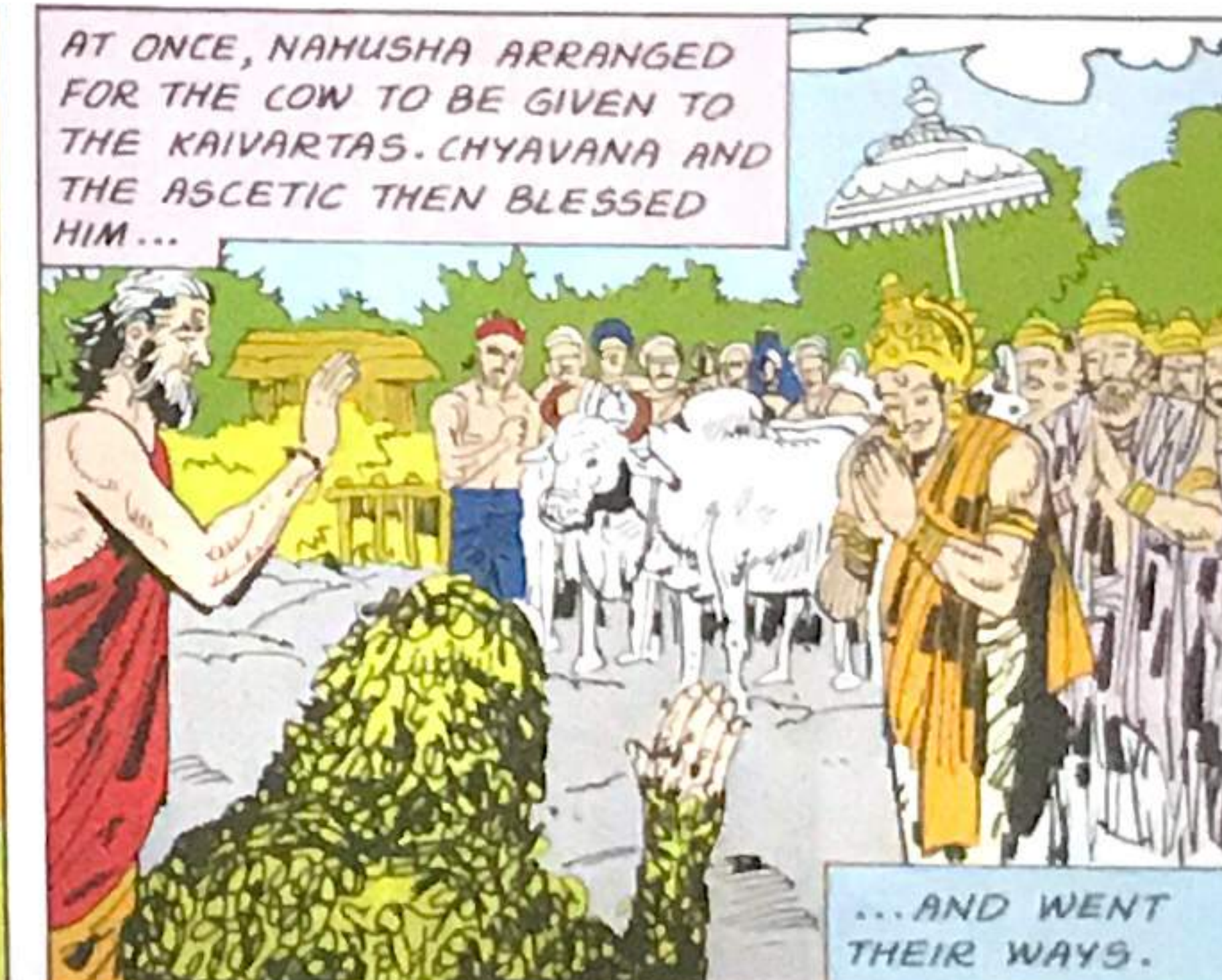
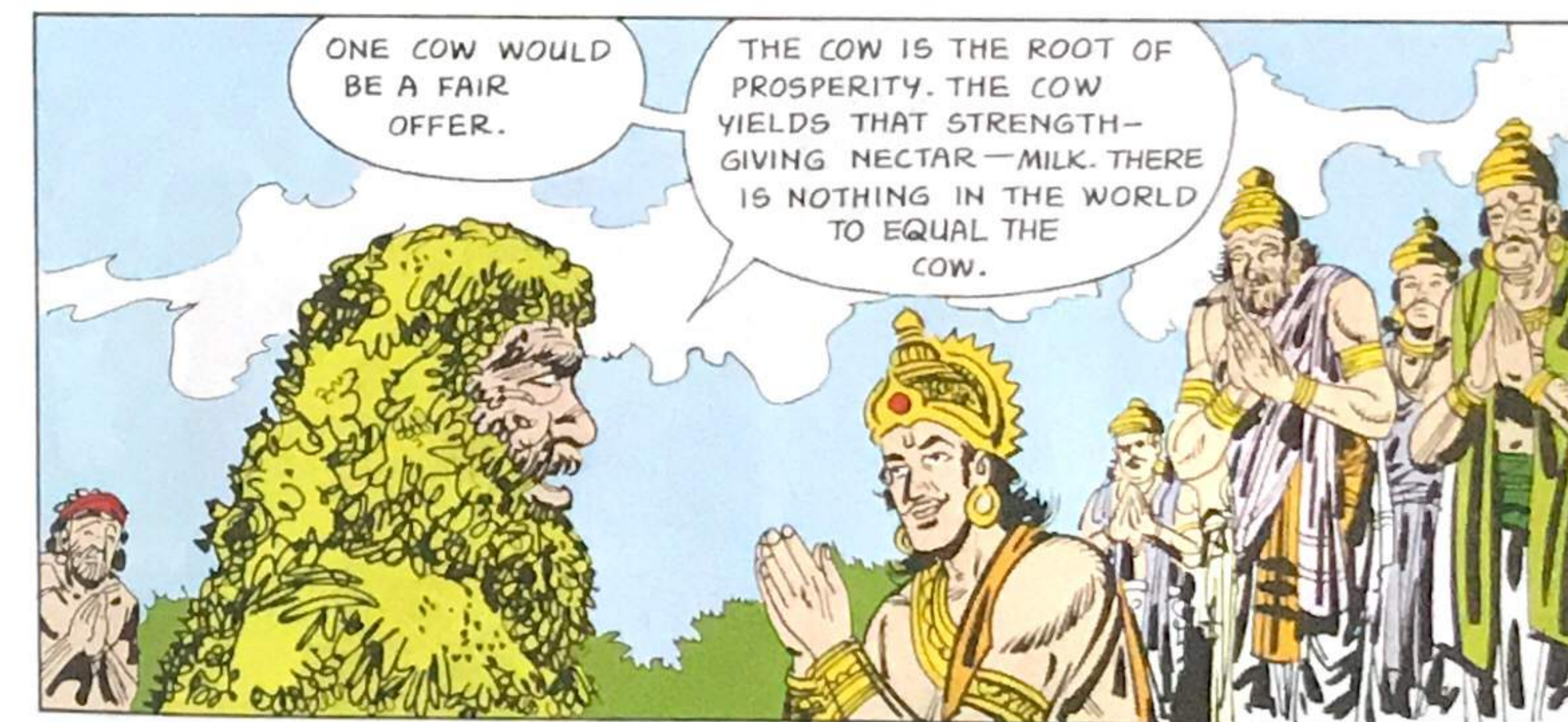
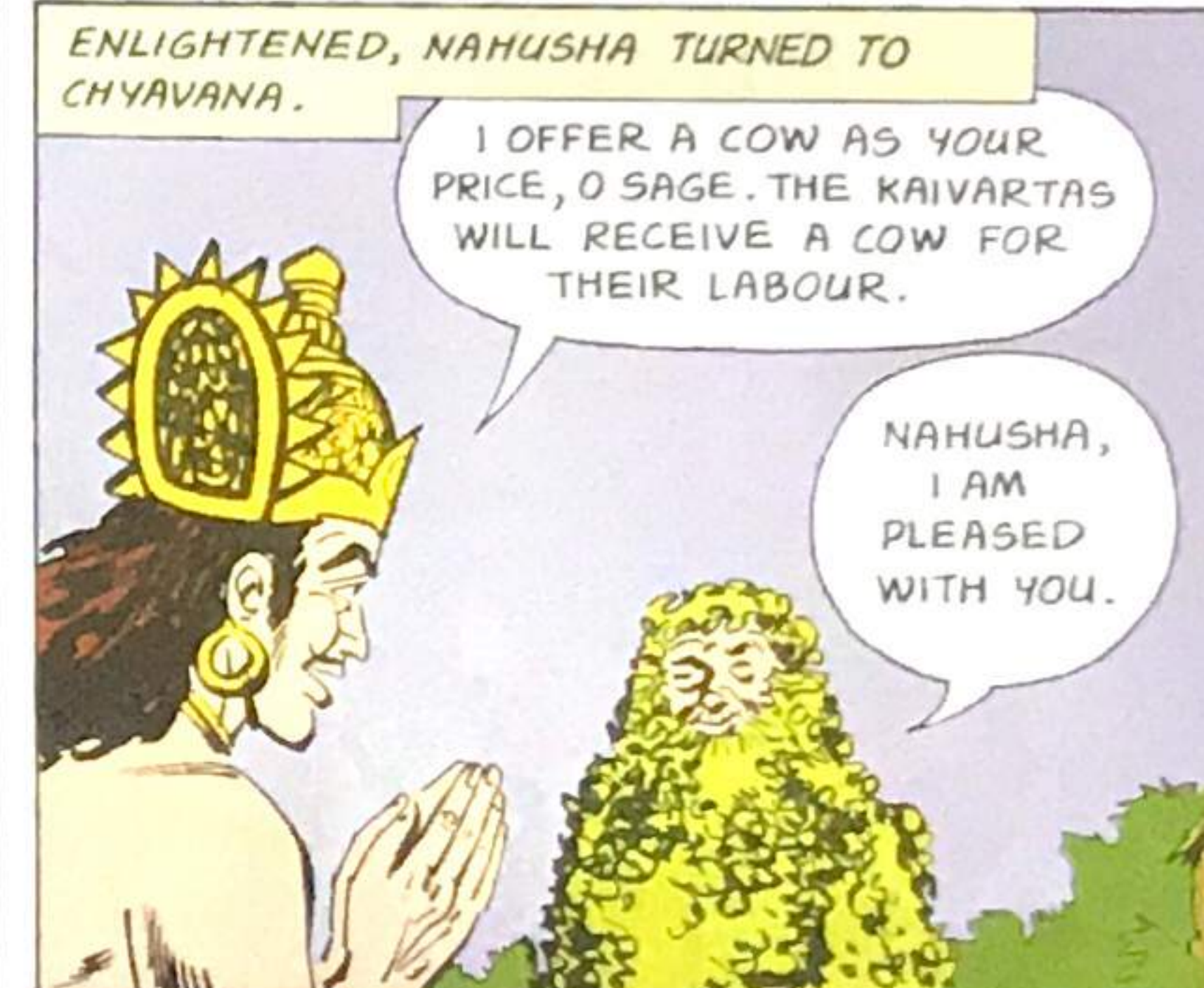
\* LIVING IN WATER







NAHUSHA





# THE CURSE

NAHUSHA WAS THE IDEAL KING. BY HIS GOOD DEEDS AND UNMATCHED VALOUR, HE DAZZLED EVEN THE DENIZENS OF HEAVEN.



SO, WHEN INDRA, KING OF THE DEVAS, WAS DEPRIVED OF HIS THRONE BY A CURSE, THEY CHOSE NAHUSHA AS THEIR NEXT KING.

HAVING INVITED HIM TO HEAVEN, THE DEVAS GRANTED NAHUSHA MANY BOONS AND GAVE HIM THE NECTAR OF IMMORTALITY TO DRINK.



THEN BRAHMA BLESSED HIM WITH THE MOST POWERFUL BOON OF ALL.

MAY ALL WHO COME WITHIN THE RANGE OF YOUR VISION BE DEPRIVED OF THEIR ENERGY AND COME UNDER YOUR SWAY.



DESPITE ALL THIS, NAHUSHA, WITH HUMBLE DEVOTION, CONTINUED TO WORSHIP THE DEVAS AS HE HAD DONE ON EARTH...



...AND IN THE COURT, THE DEVAS BOWED TO HIM.



AND SO IT WENT ON

THEN ONE DAY IN THE MIDST OF HIS WORSHIP NAHUSHA SUDDENLY STOPPED AND OPENED HIS EYES.



WHY AM I WORSHIPPING THE DEVAS? I AM THEIR KING.



THEY MUST NOT ONLY BOW BEFORE ME, THEY SHOULD ALSO SERVE ME.

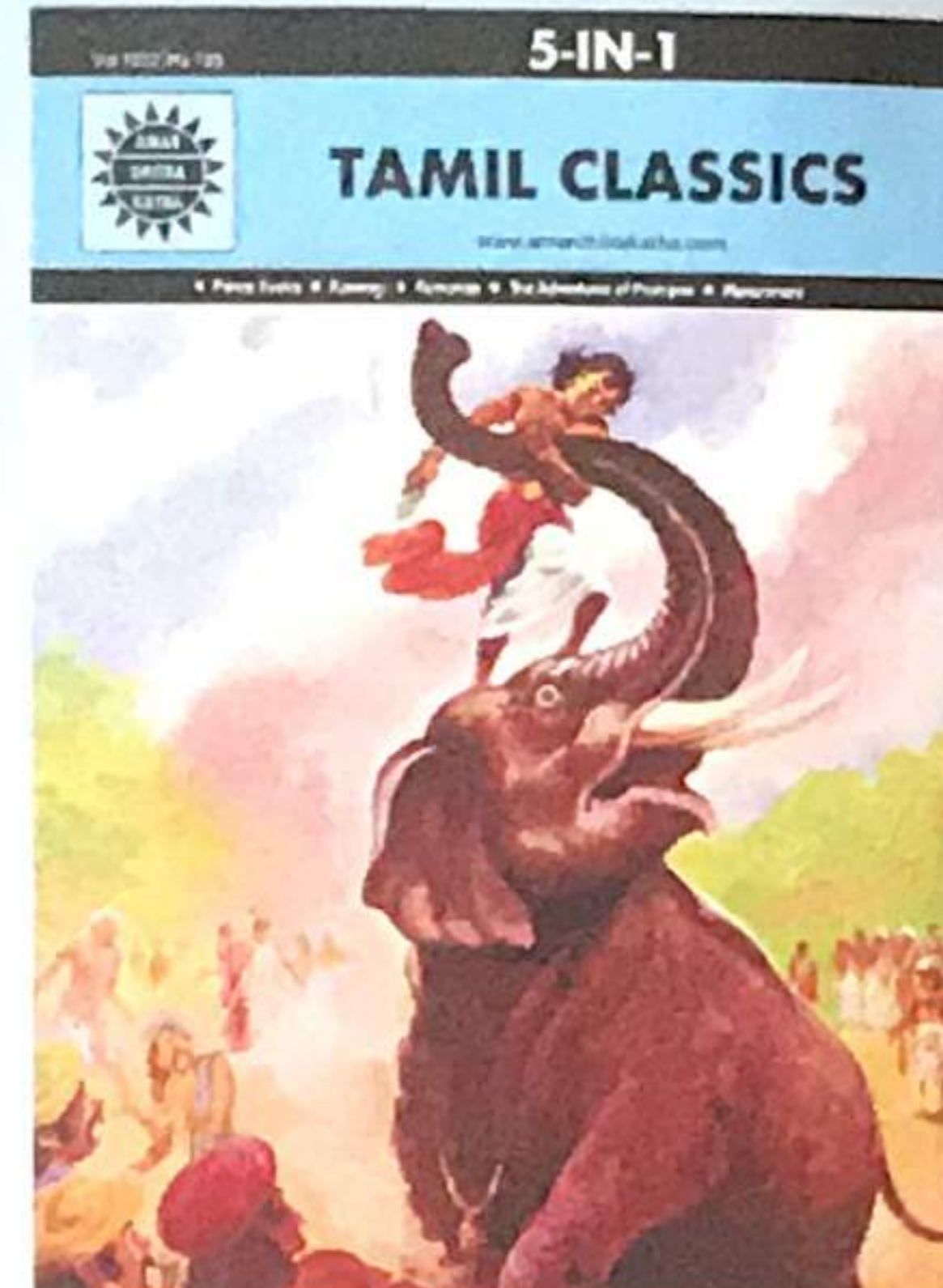
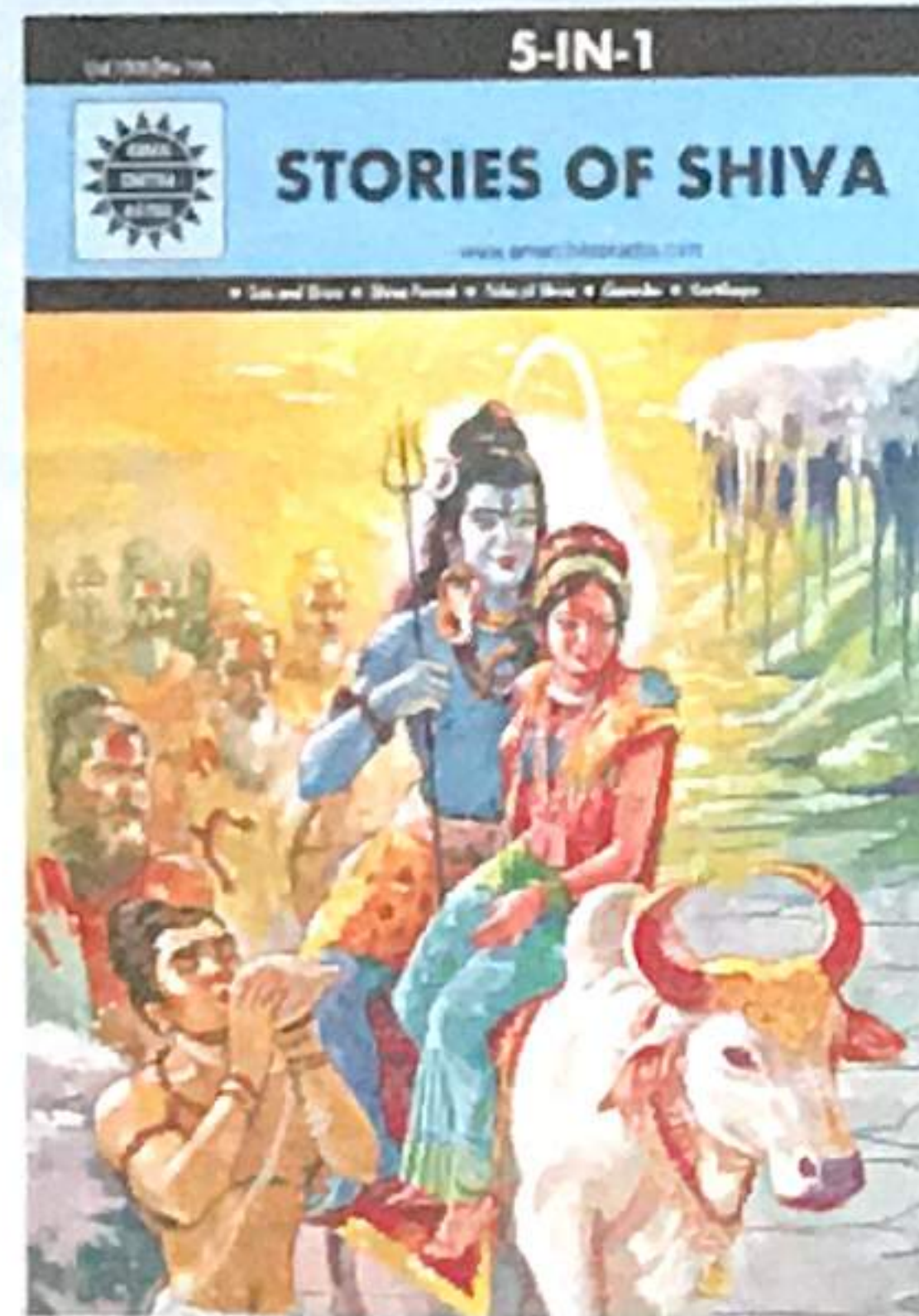
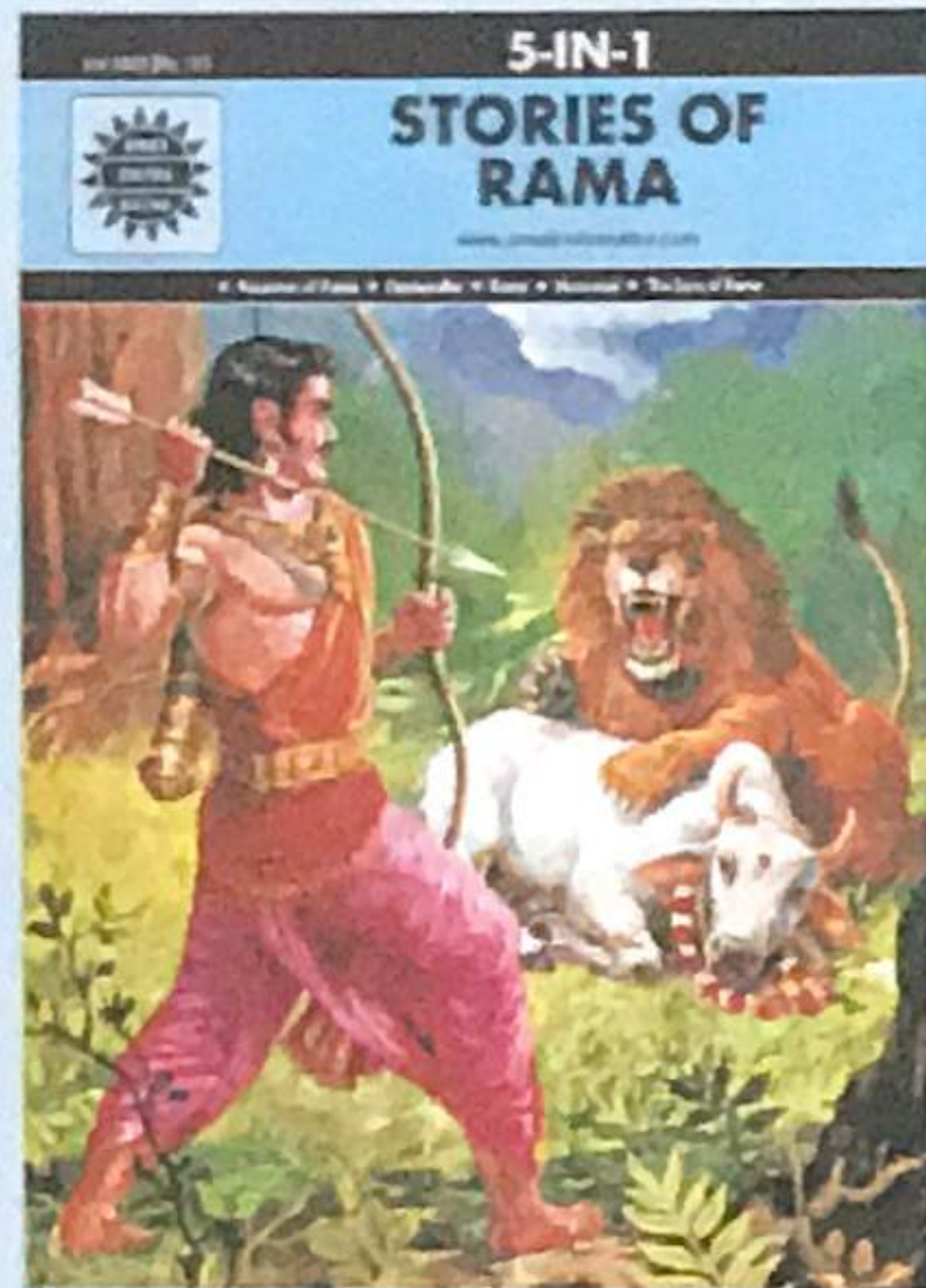




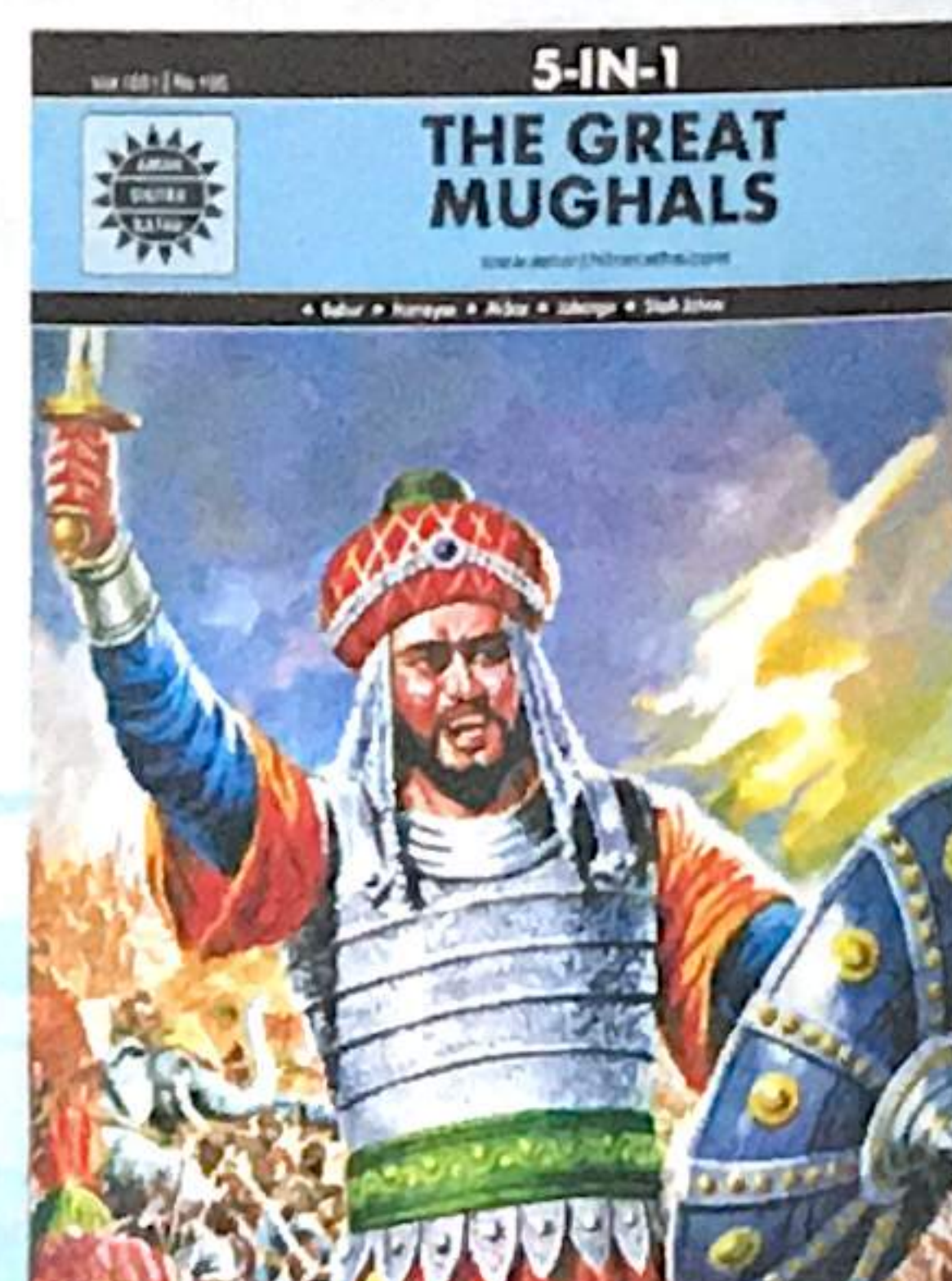
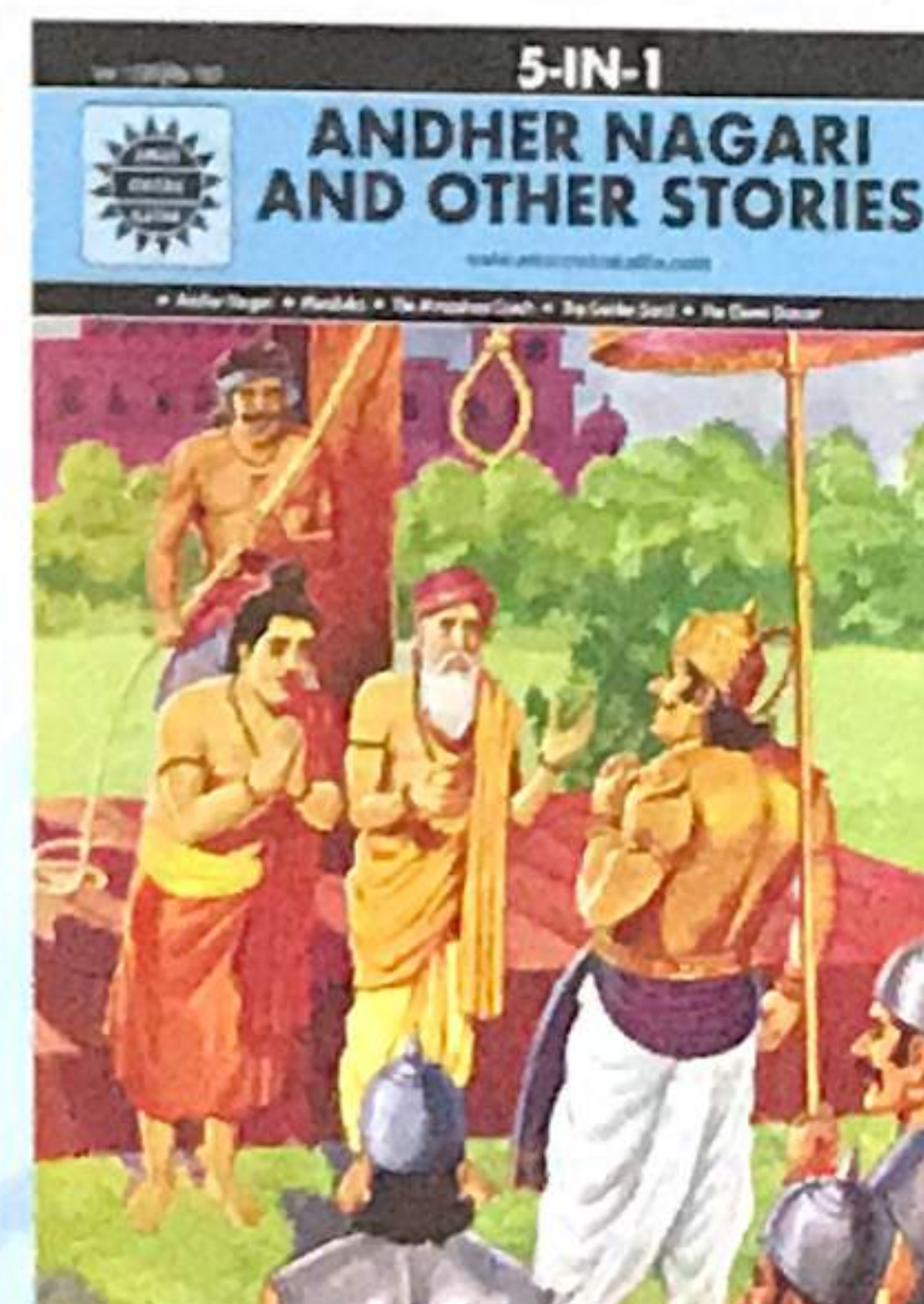
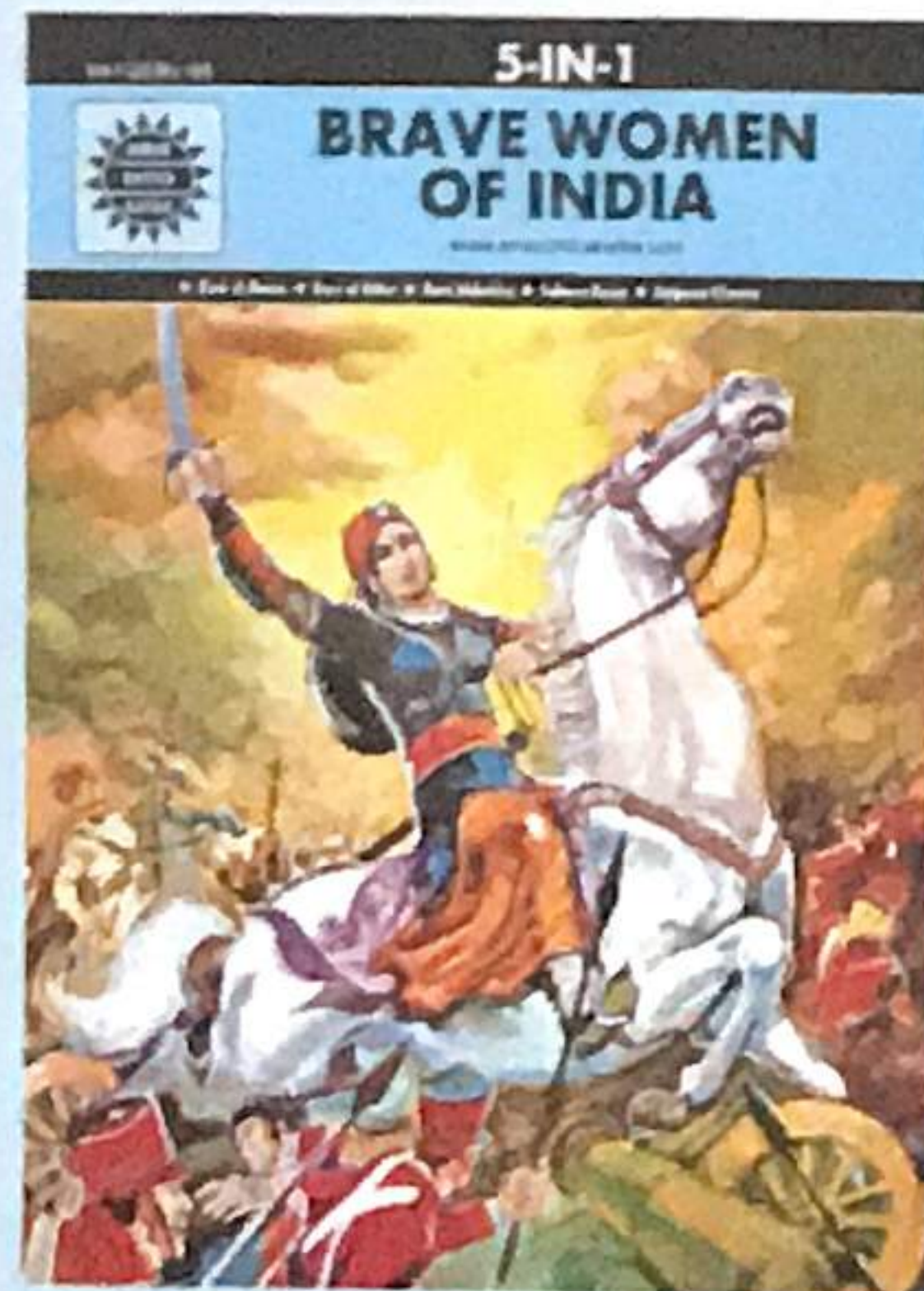
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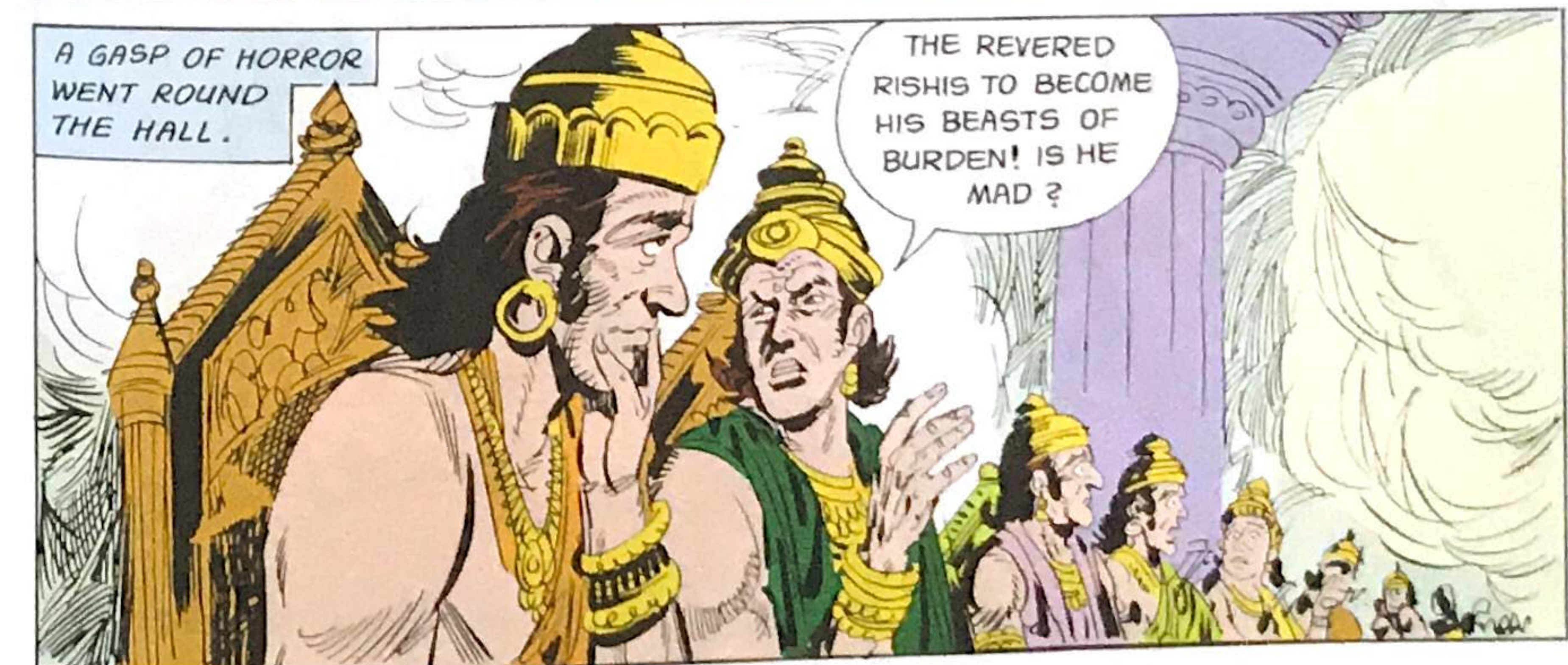
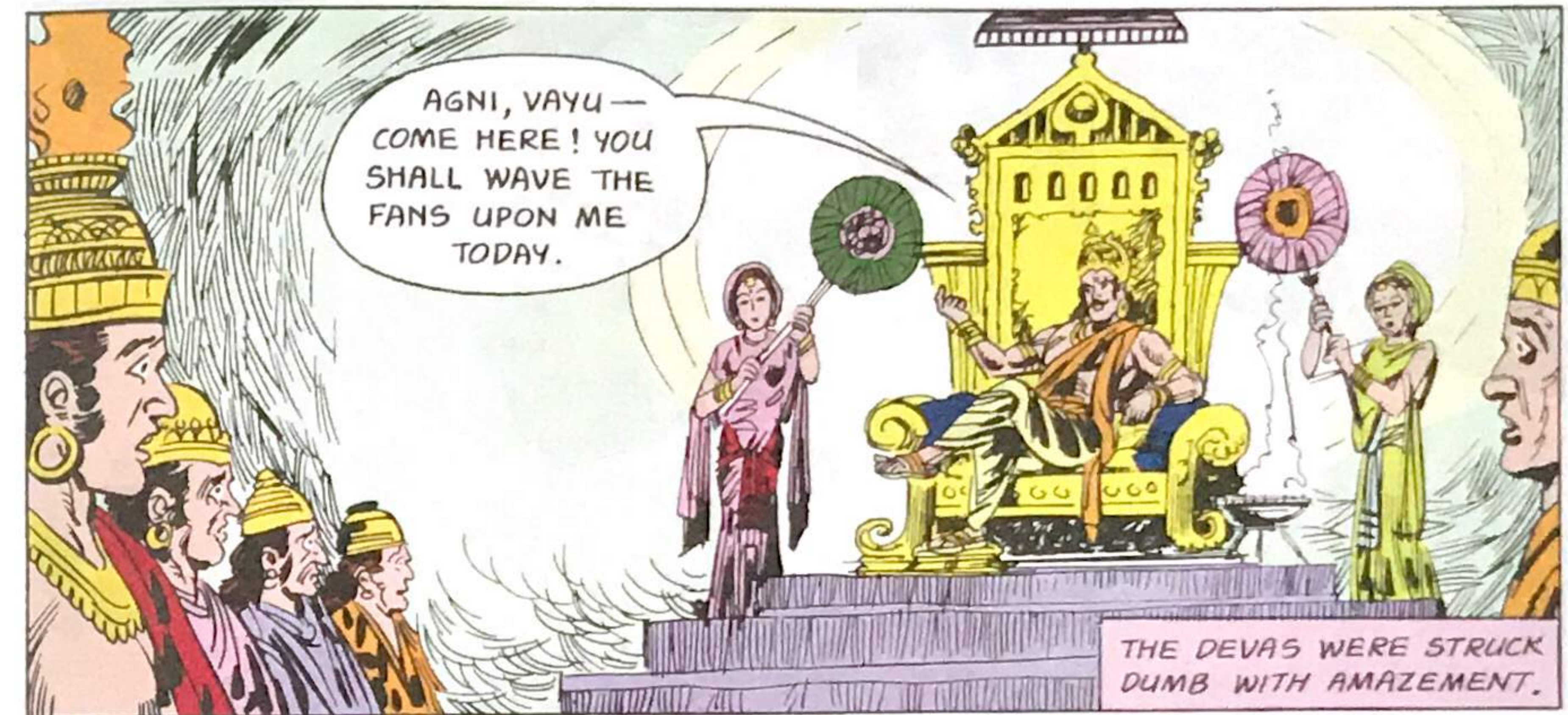
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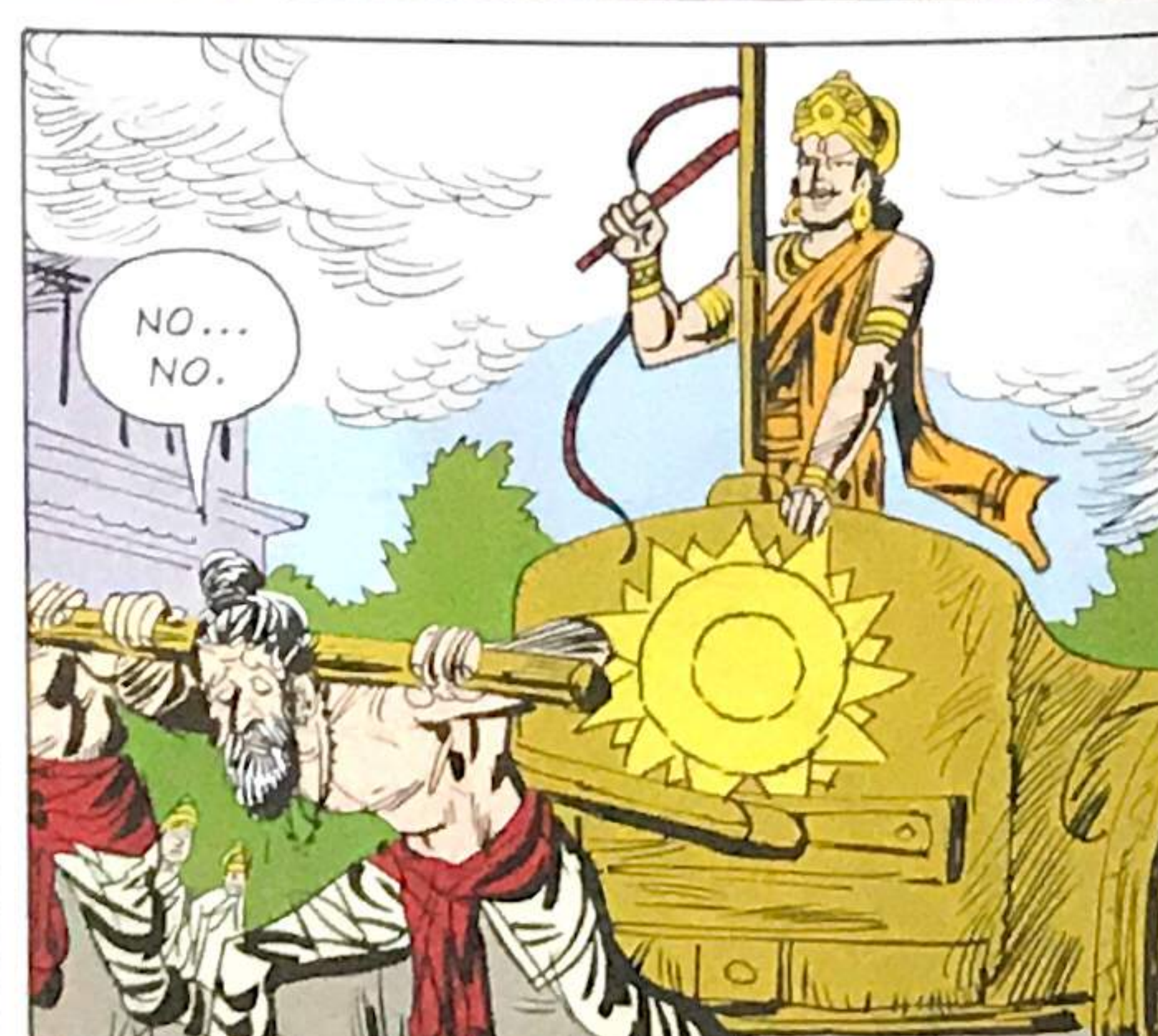
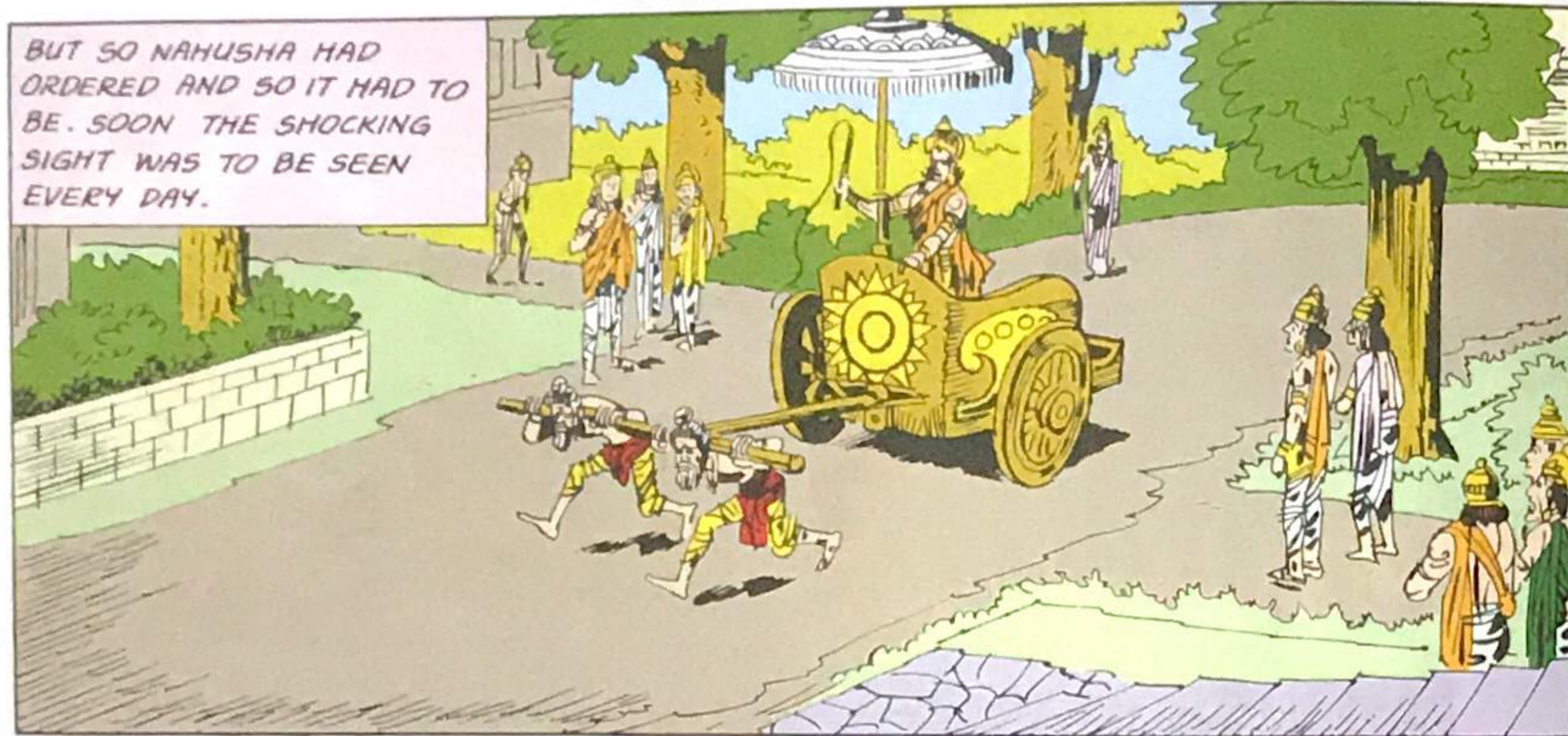
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NAHUSHA





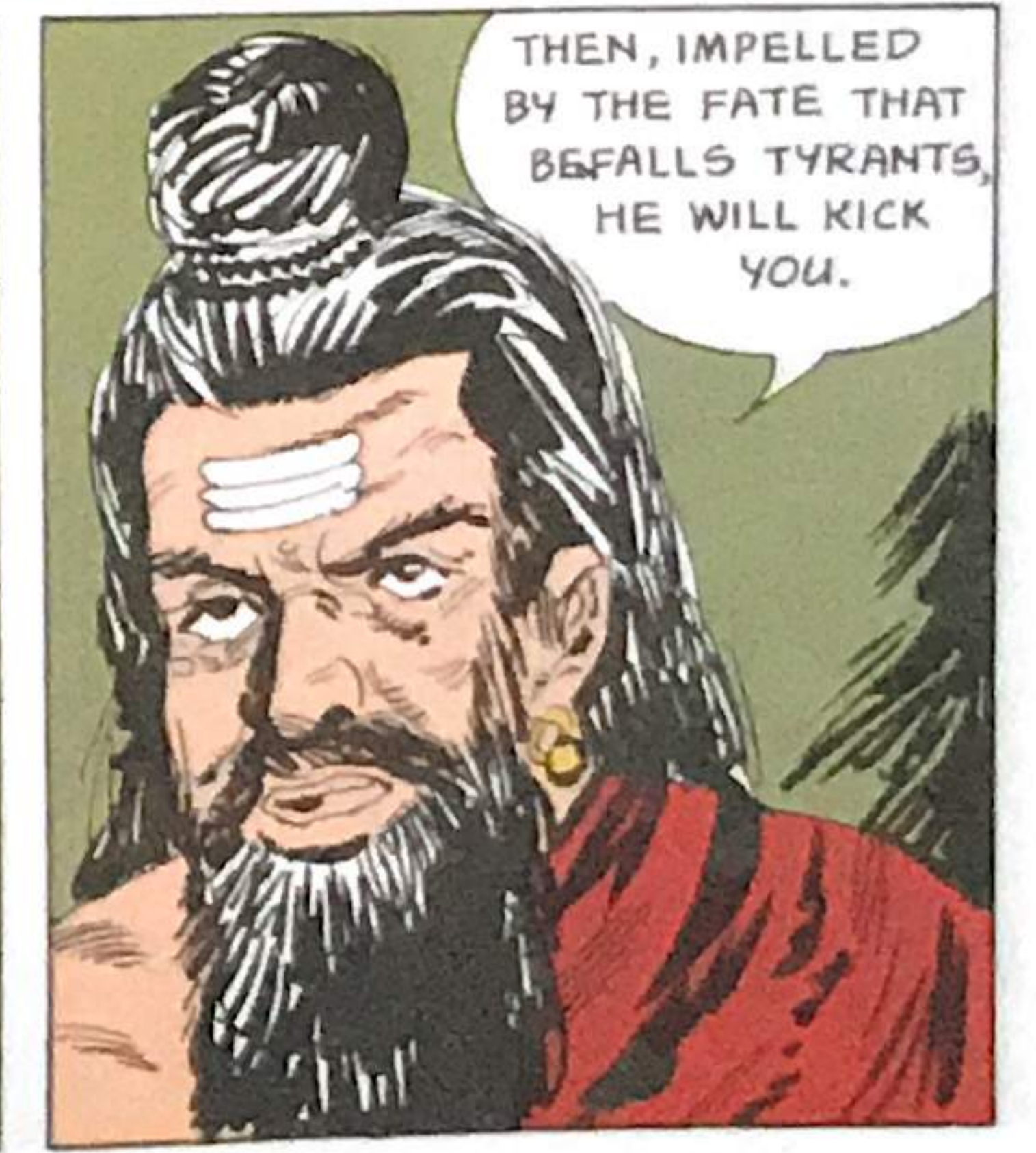
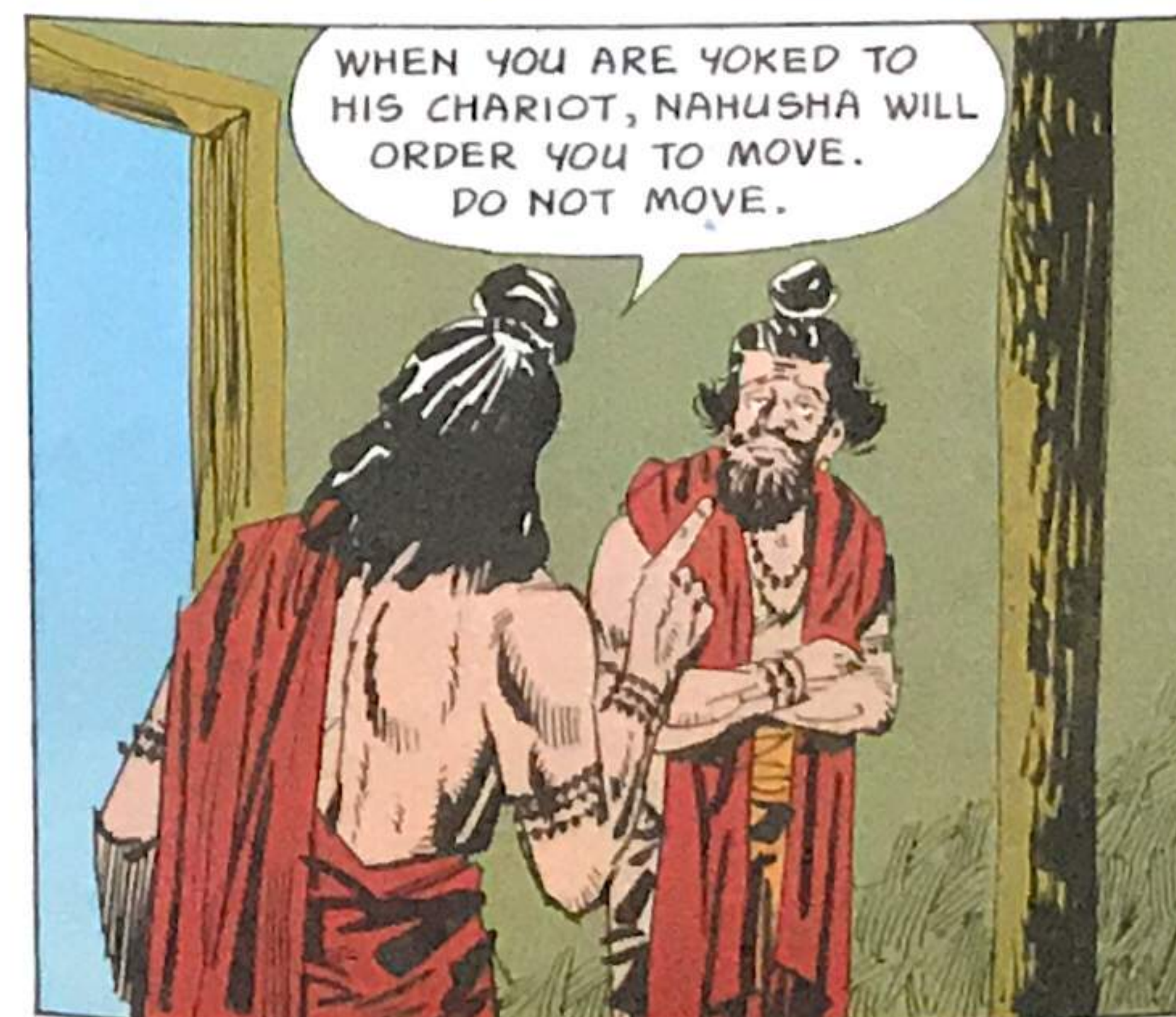
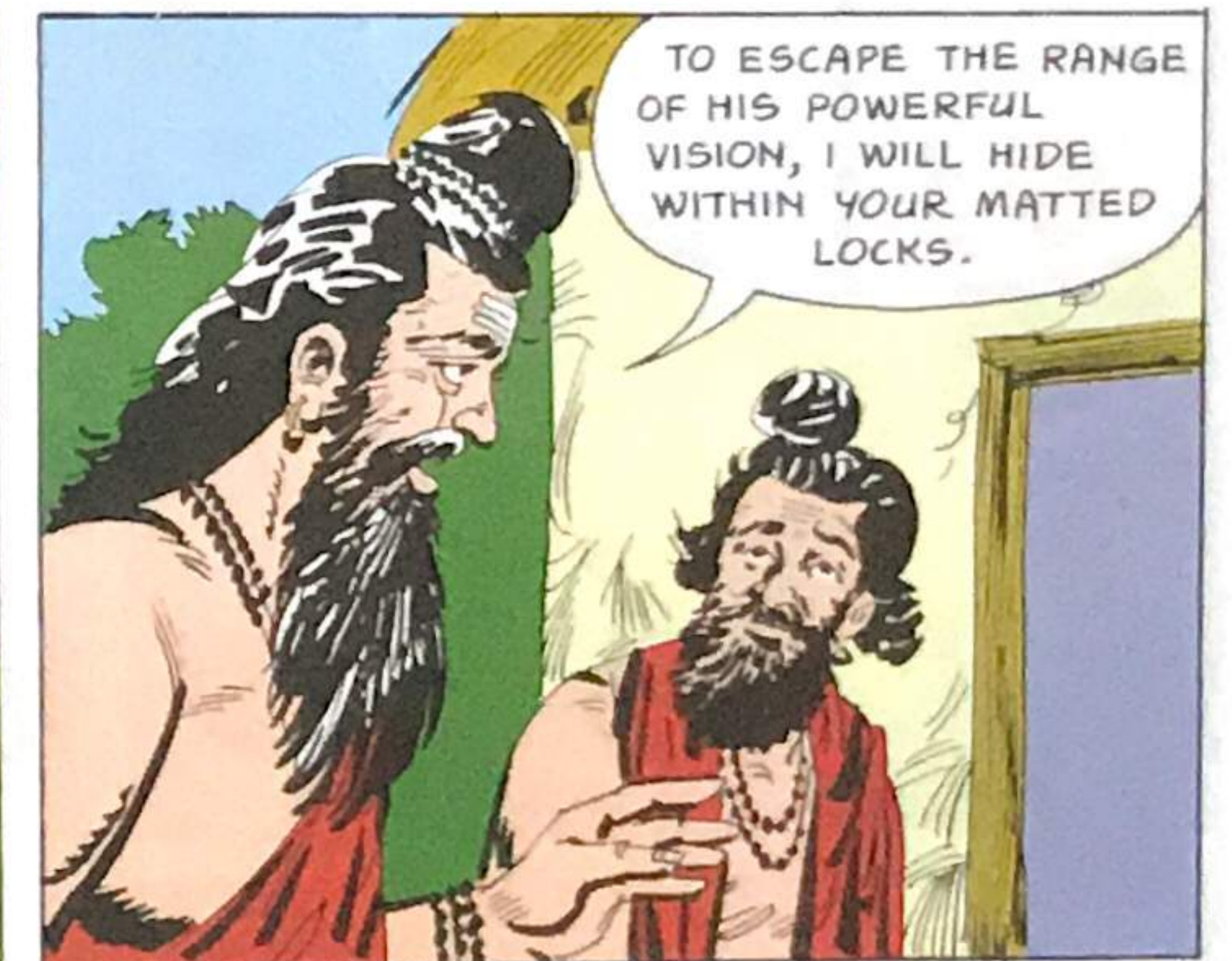
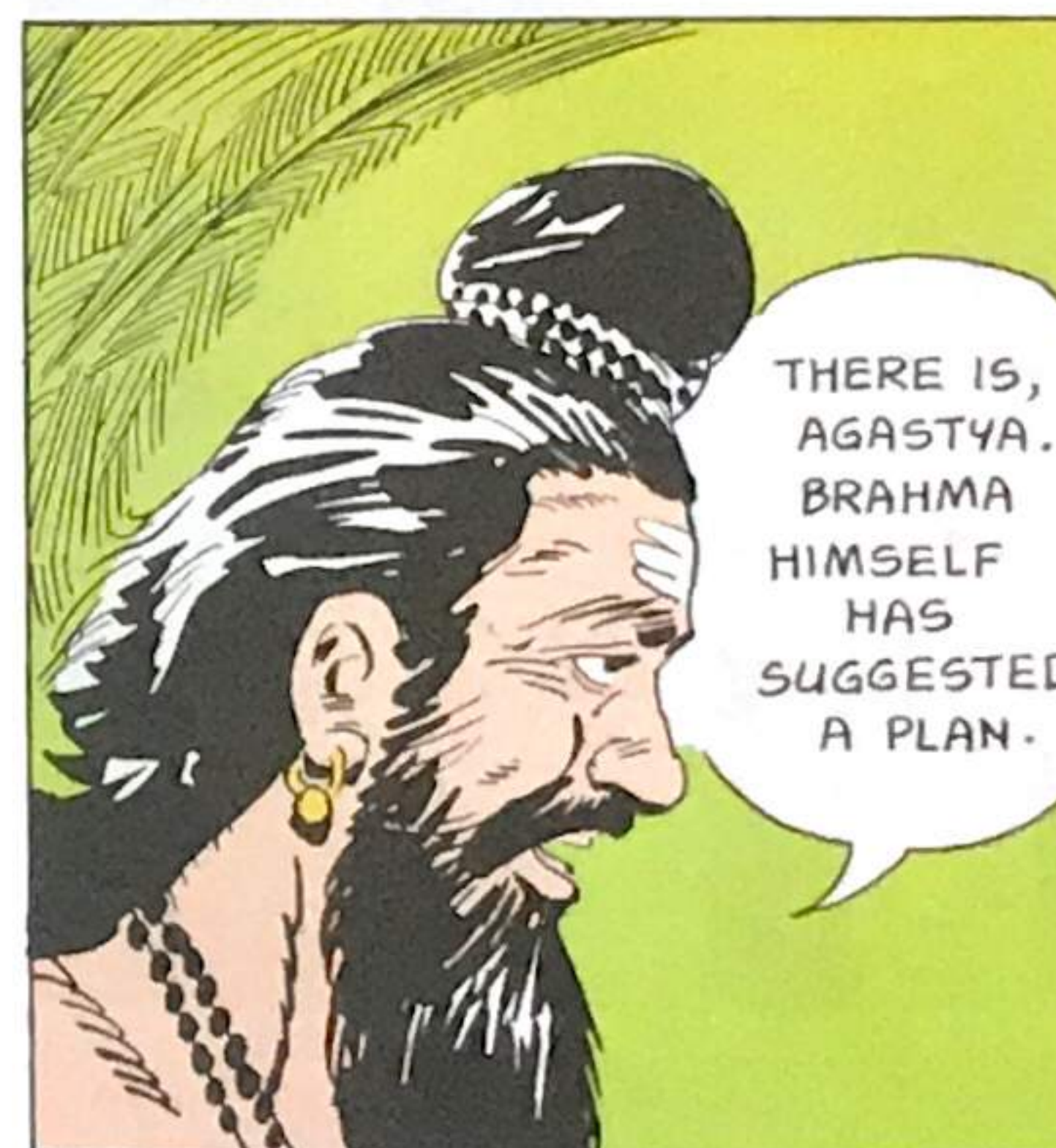
BUT SO NAHUSHA HAD ORDERED AND SO IT HAD TO BE. SOON THE SHOCKING SIGHT WAS TO BE SEEN EVERY DAY.



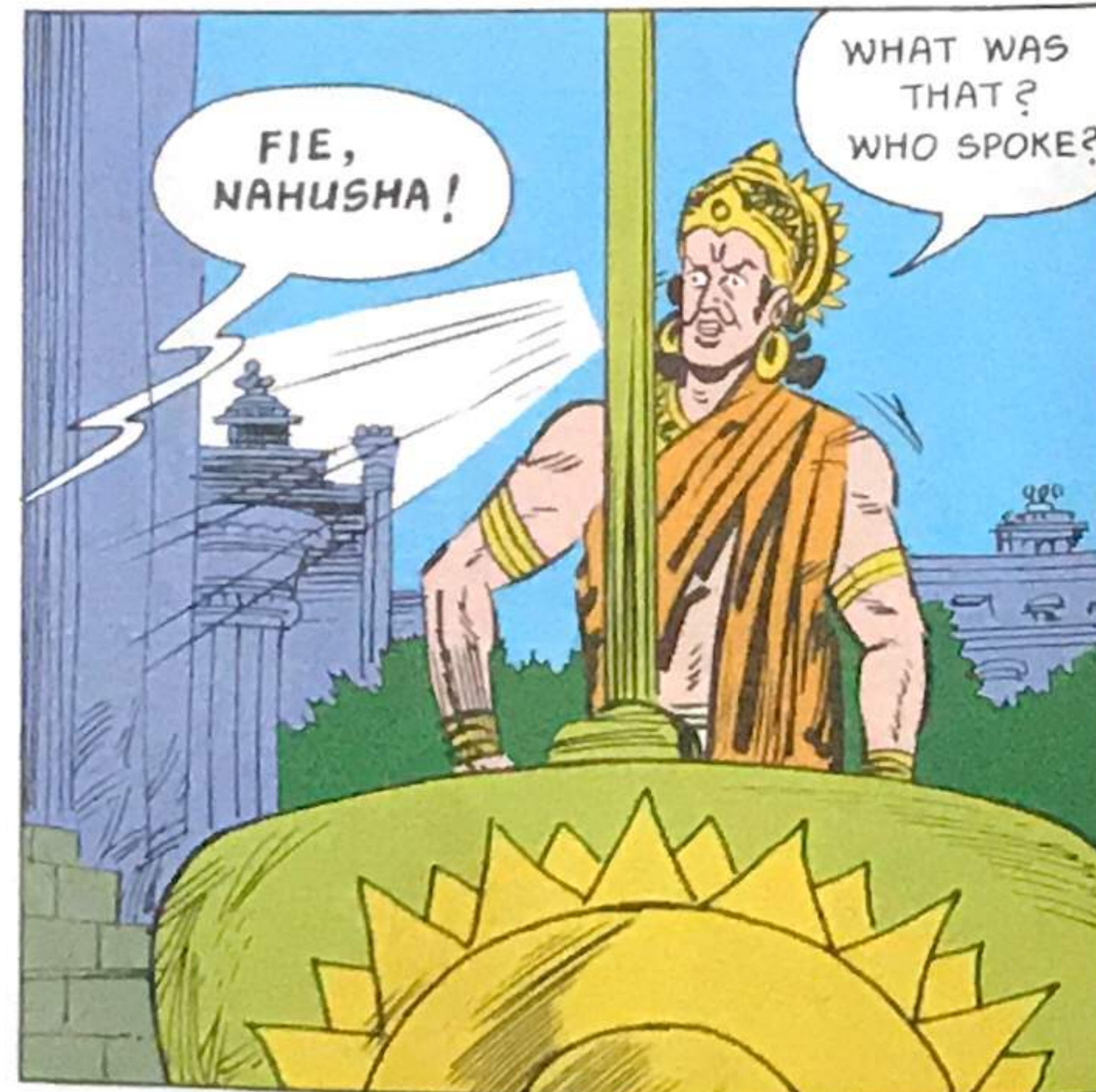
THE SAGES WERE IN A QUANDARY. FINALLY, SAGE BHRIGU CAME ONE DAY TO SAGE AGASTYA.

O AGASTYA, TODAY, IT IS YOUR TURN TO PULL NAHUSHA'S CHARIOT. WILL YOU TOO PUT UP WITH THIS INSULT?

I HAVE NO CHOICE BHRIGU. BECAUSE OF BRAHMA'S BOON AND THE NECTAR NAHUSHA HAS DRUNK, WE ARE POWERLESS BEFORE HIM. THERE IS NOTHING WE CAN DO.









BUT BECAUSE OF HIS EARLIER HUMILITY AND DEVOTION, NAHUSHA RETAINED THE MEMORY OF HIS BYGONE DAYS. AND NOW, SHAME AND REMORSE CAME TO HIM.

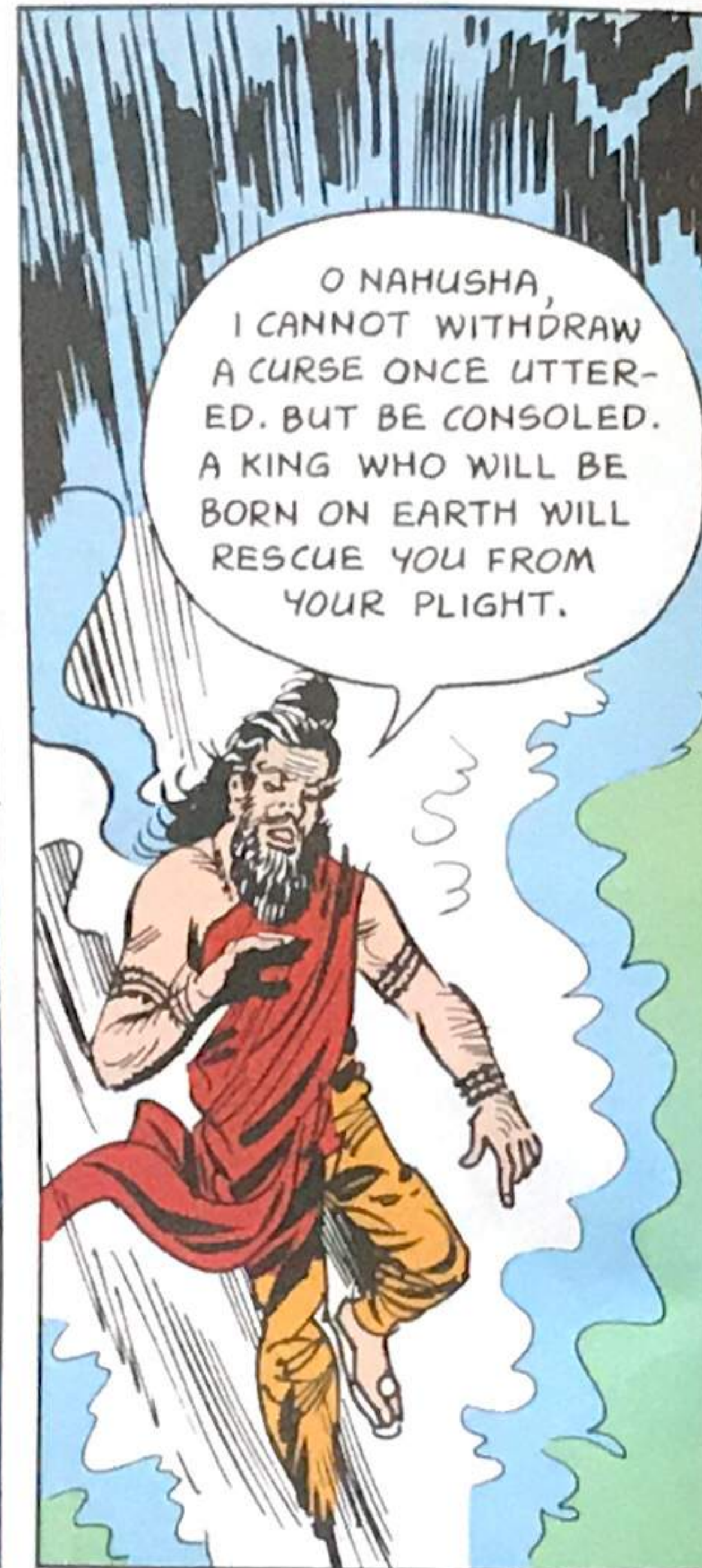


O SAGES,  
O DEVAS,  
FORGIVE  
ME!

NAHUSHA'S DEEP AND SINCERE PRAYERS ROSE UP TO HEAVEN. IN COMPASSION, AGASTYA TURNED TO BHRIGU.

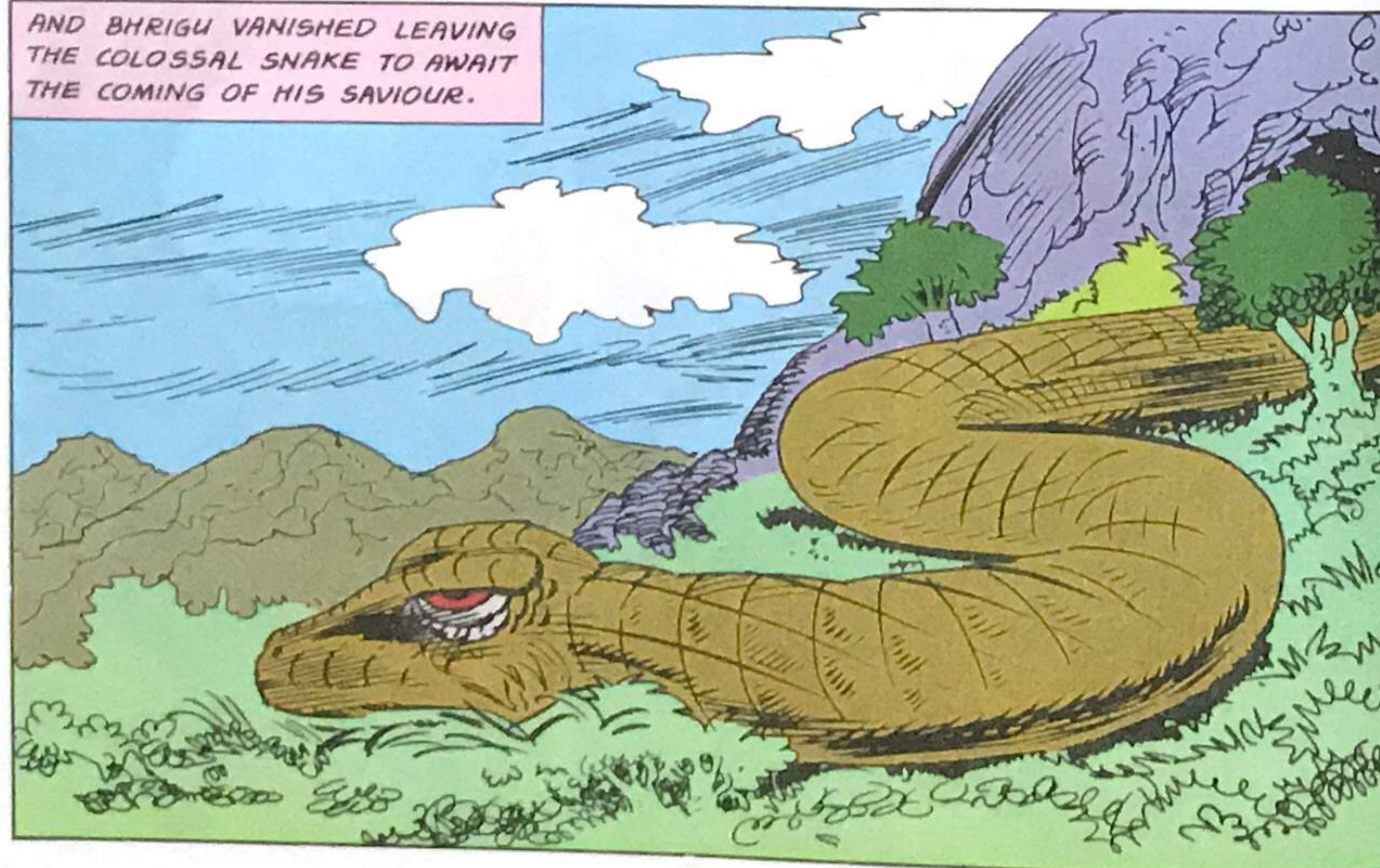


POOR MAN!  
HE IS TRULY  
PENITENT.  
PLEASE SOFTEN  
THE CURSE.



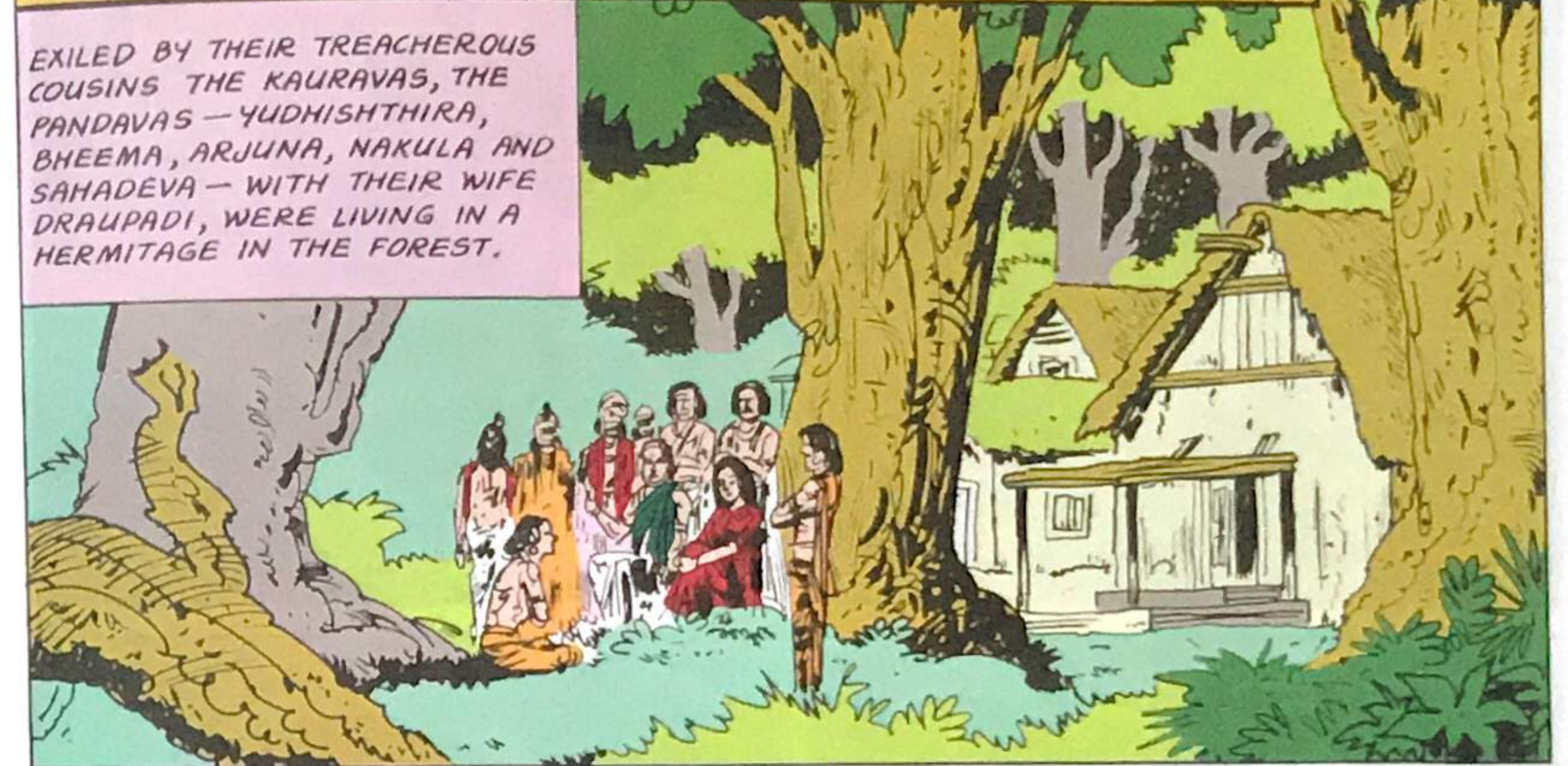
O NAHUSHA,  
I CANNOT WITHDRAW  
A CURSE ONCE UTTERED.  
BUT BE CONSOLED.  
A KING WHO WILL BE  
BORN ON EARTH WILL  
RESCUE YOU FROM  
YOUR FLIGHT.

AND BHRIGU VANISHED LEAVING THE COLOSSAL SNAKE TO AWAIT THE COMING OF HIS SAVIOUR.

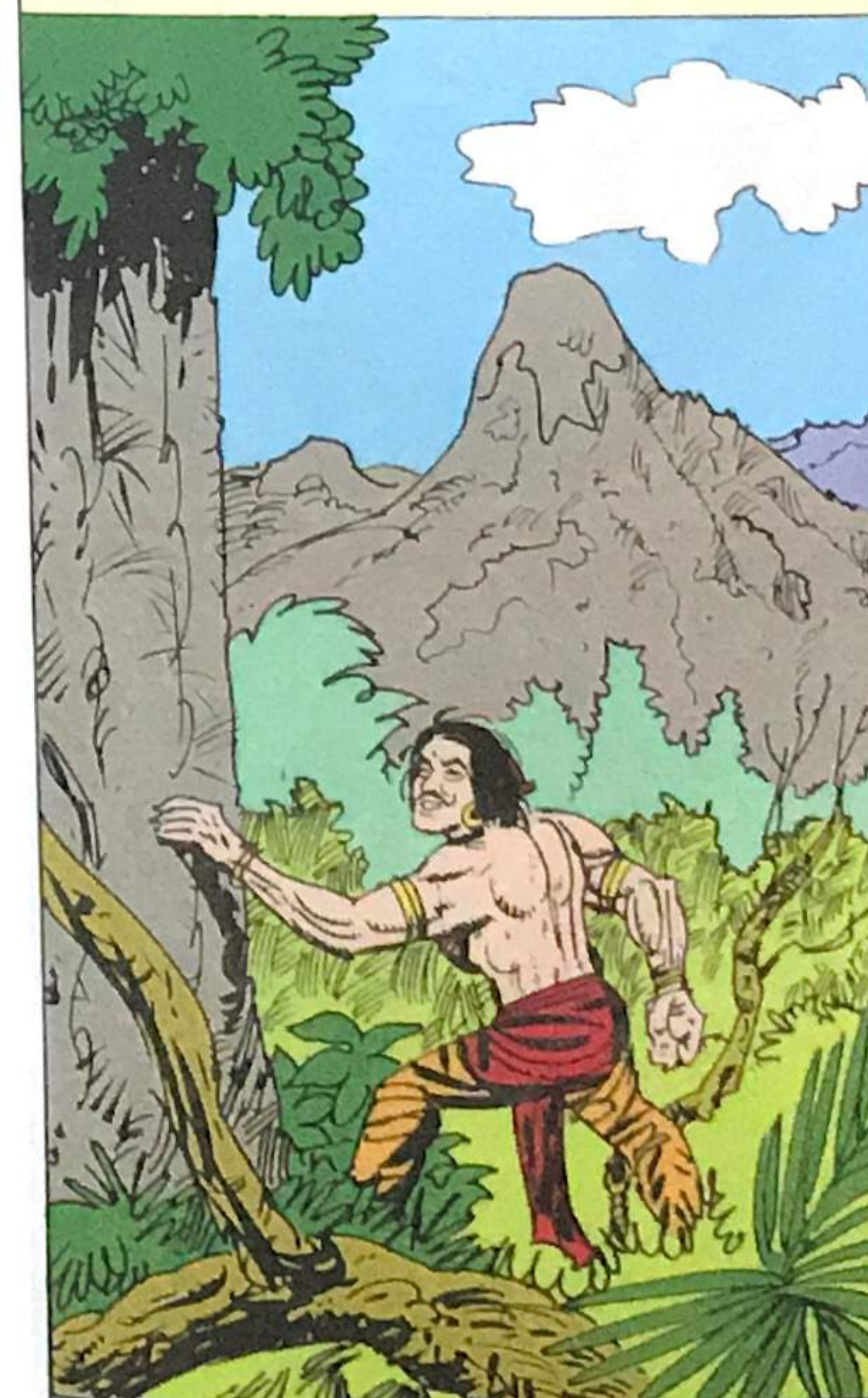


## NAHUSHA AND YUDHISHTHIRA

EXILED BY THEIR TREACHEROUS COUSINS THE KAURAVAS, THE PANDAVAS — YUDHISHTHIRA, BHEEMA, ARJUNA, NAKULA AND SAHADEVA — WITH THEIR WIFE DRAUPADI, WERE LIVING IN A HERMITAGE IN THE FOREST.



ONE DAY, BHEEMA DECIDED TO ROAM THE JUNGLES. HE SET OFF, EXULTING IN THE NATURAL BEAUTY AROUND HIM.



BREAKING DOWN TREES, STAMPING ON THE GROUND AND ROARING LOUDLY, HE WENT DEEPER AND DEEPER INTO THE JUNGLE...



... FRIGHTENING THE ANIMALS BY HIS VIGOUR AND VOICE.



THE SCENERY CHANGED FROM GREEN TO BROWN. BRACKISH POOLS LAY ON THE DRY, THORNY GROUND. TOWERING ROCKS ROSE INTO THE SKY. BUT BHEEMA CONTINUED ONWARD.



SUDDENLY, HIS HAIR STOOD ON END.



THE NEXT MOMENT—

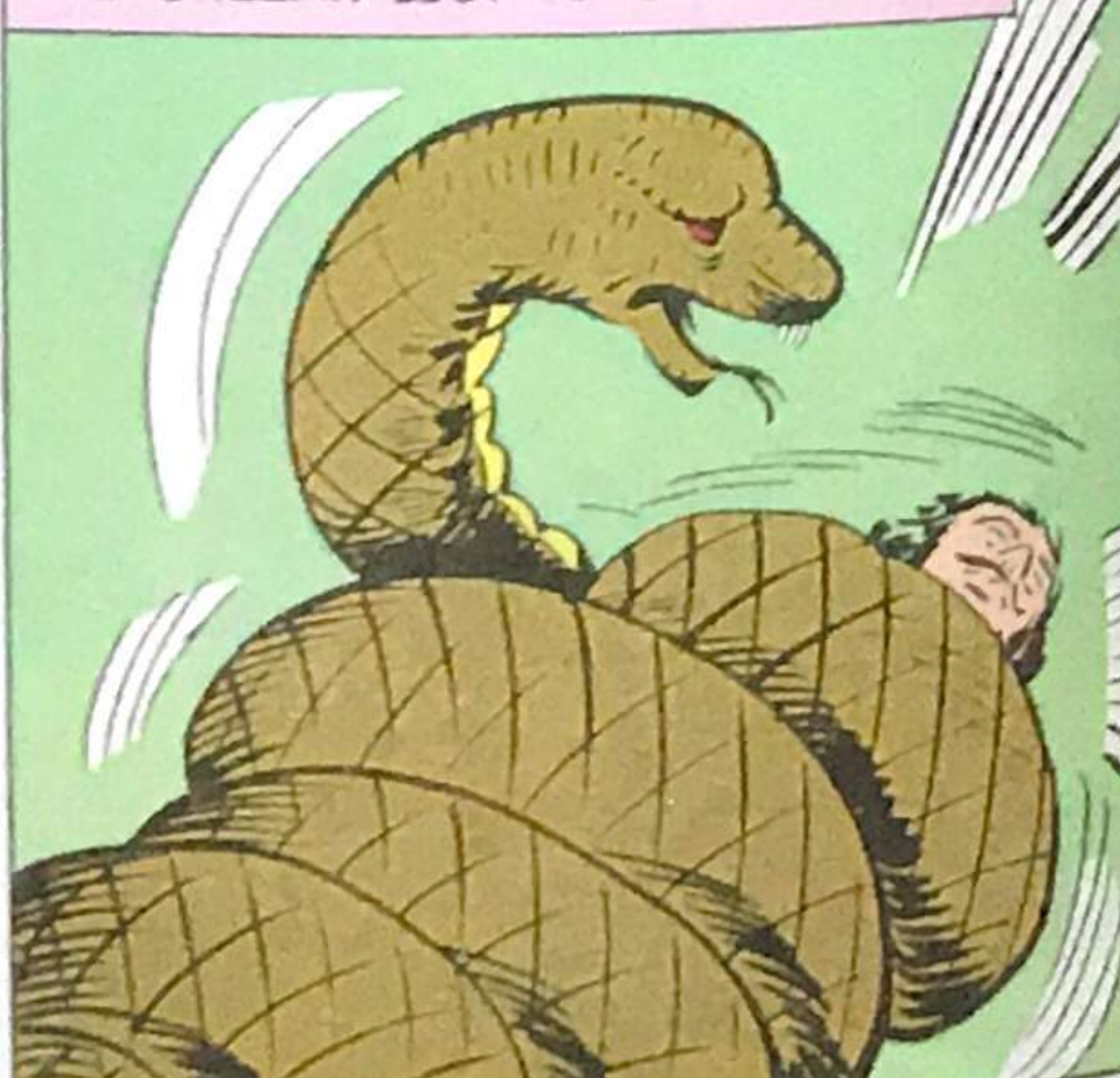


LET ME GO!  
LET ME...

THOSE EYES...  
THEY MAKE ME  
WEAK... FAINT...  
POWERLESS...



AND BHEEMA LOST CONSCIOUSNESS.

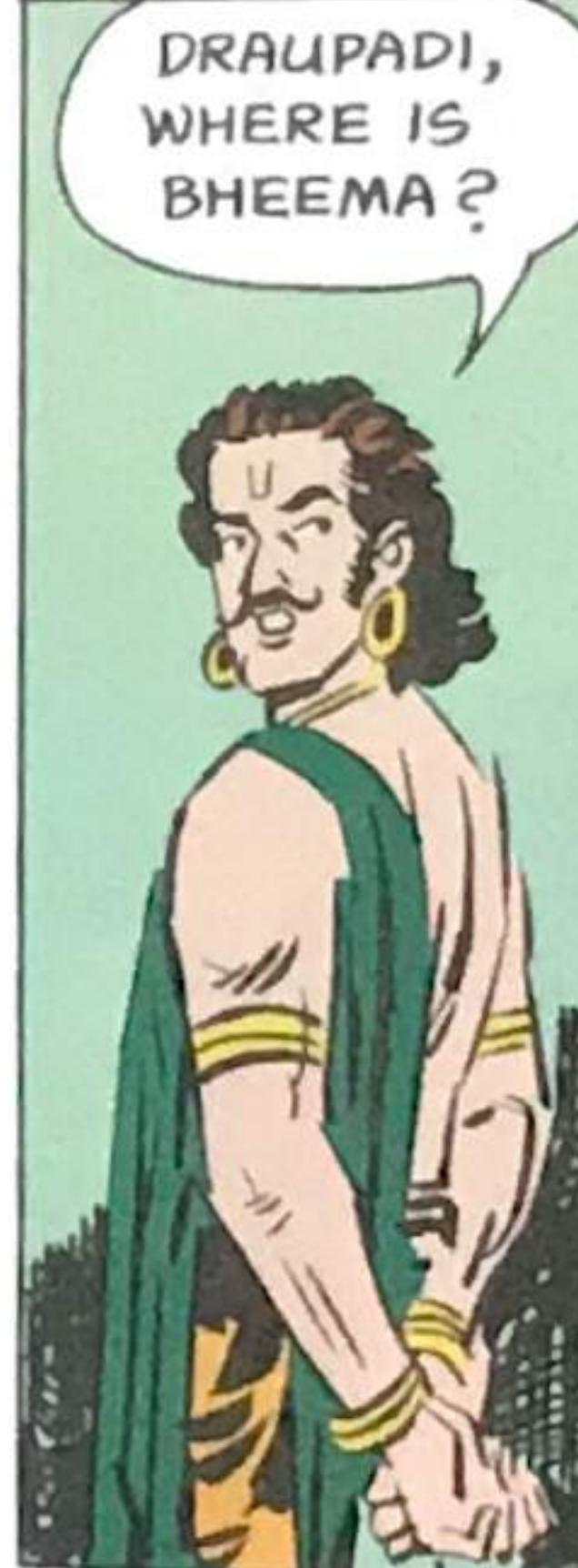


MEANWHILE, BACK AT THE HERMITAGE, YUDHISHTHIRA WAS WORRIED.

CROWS CAWING...  
JACKALS HOWLING...  
THE WIND DRY AND  
FULL OF GRIT...  
THESE ARE BAD  
OMENS!



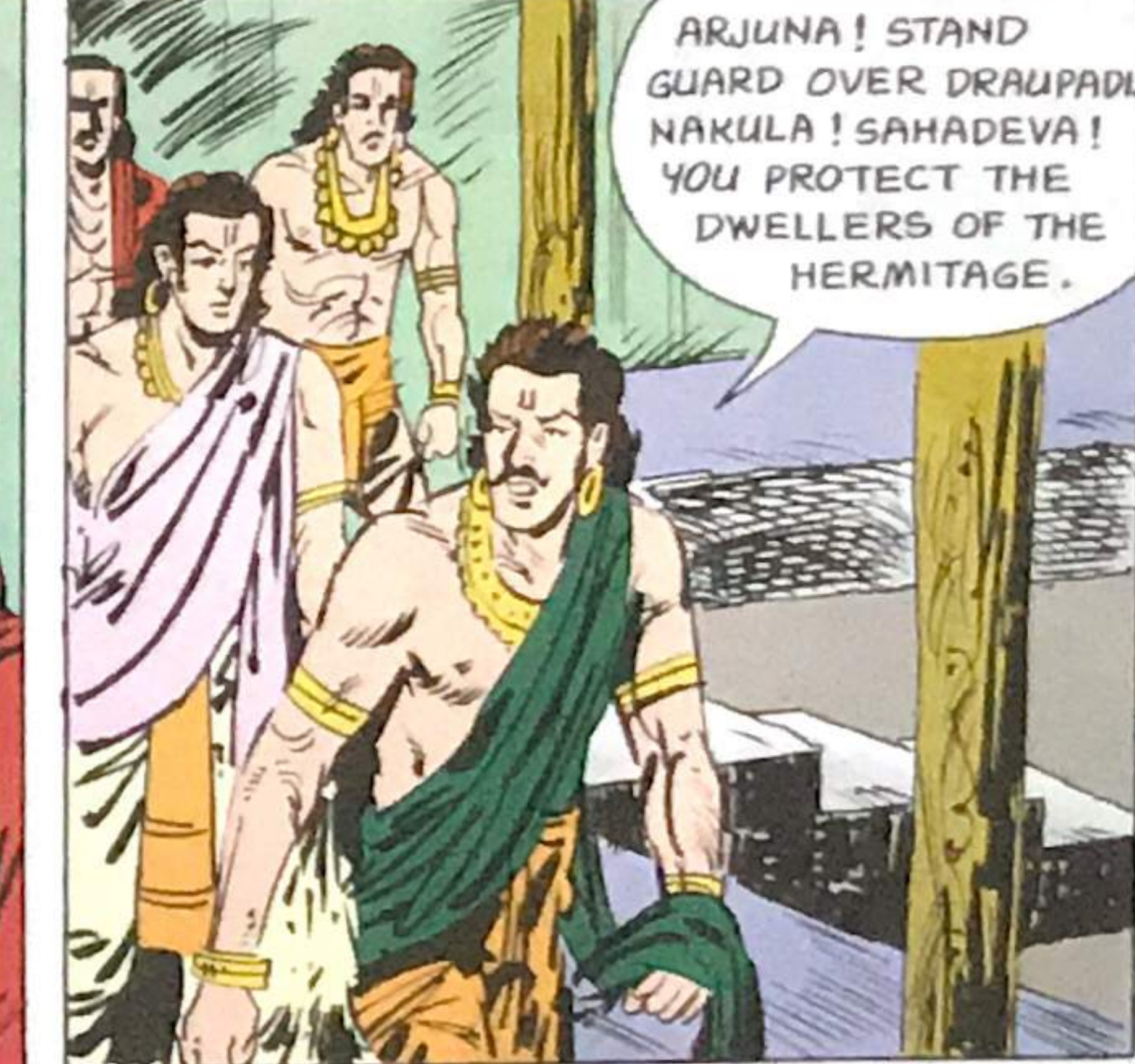
DRAUPADI,  
WHERE IS  
BHEEMA?



HE WENT OUT  
QUITE SOME TIME  
AGO.

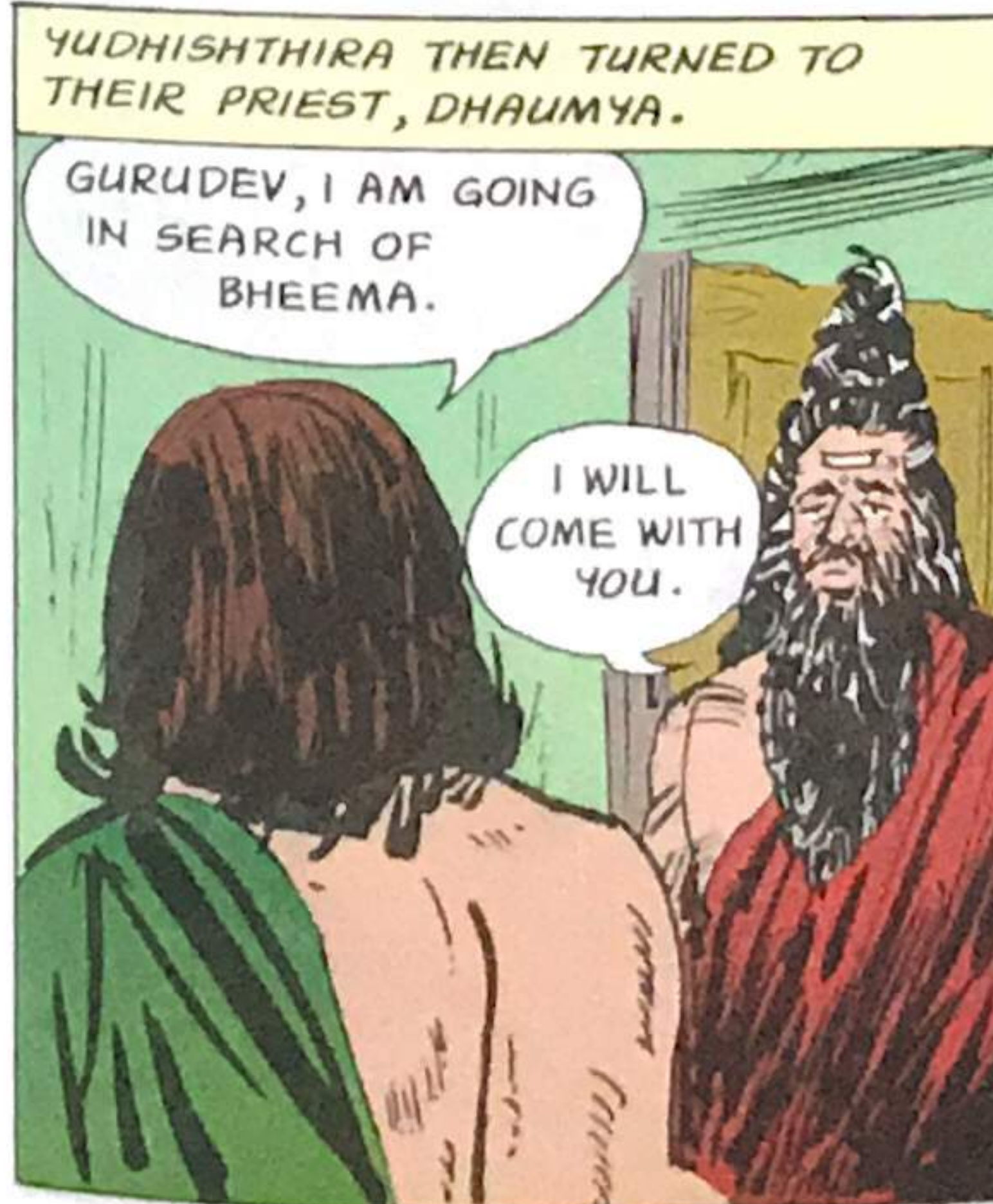


ARJUNA! STAND  
GUARD OVER DRAUPADI.  
NAKULA! SAHADEVA!  
YOU PROTECT THE  
DWELLERS OF THE  
HERMITAGE.



YUDHISHTHIRA THEN TURNED TO  
THEIR PRIEST, DHAUMYA.

GURUDEV, I AM GOING  
IN SEARCH OF  
BHEEMA.



I WILL  
COME WITH  
YOU.

THEY SET OUT.

LOOK! BHEEMA  
HAS LEFT A TRAIL.  
WE WILL FOLLOW  
IT.





